

HISTORY OF A 19th CENTURY URBAN COMPLEX ON THE SITE OF FORT STANWIX

By DIANA STECK WAITE

NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC TRUST

**HISTORY OF A NINETEENTH CENTURY URBAN COMPLEX
ON THE SITE OF FORT STANWIX**

Rome, New York

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**Selections from the Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service**

By **DIANA STECK WAITE**

NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC TRUST



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INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Rome Urban Renewal Agency, the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service arranged in the spring of 1970 to record five buildings situated on the site of Fort Stanwix which were widely recognized for their architectural and historic importance. Located in the heart of Rome's business center, the structures formed a unique historic district that was significant as a microcosm of the history of Rome through its associations with the city's nineteenth century commercial, industrial, political and social development. Because of these outstanding qualities, the New York State Historic Trust nominated two of the buildings, the Barnes-Mudge House and "Liberty Hall," to the National Register of Historic Places. In 1971 all buildings on the site were demolished preparatory to archeological investigation and reconstruction of Fort Stanwix by the National Park Service.

Funding for the necessary research and the preparation of the records for the HABS archives in the Library of Congress was provided by the Rome Urban Renewal Agency (William H. Flinchbaugh, Executive Director) as part of the Fort Stanwix-Central Business District Urban Renewal Project (NYR-173). Diana S. Waite prepared the historic documentation and the architectural descriptions, and Jack E. Boucher made the detailed photographic record. The project was under the general supervision of John C. Poppeliers, Senior Editor of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Publication of the report was made possible by the New York State Historic Trust.

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PART I: GENERAL HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FORT STANWIX AREA

The land on which the city of Rome is now located was included in the Oriskany Patent, which was granted to Thomas Weston and others about 1705. In 1785 the patent was surveyed and divided into allotments. Previous to that time a parcel located to the south and west of the remains of Fort Stanwix had been surveyed and reserved for sale at an auction, in order to pay for the expense of surveying the remainder of the patent. This parcel was subsequently termed the "Expense Lot."

On January 9, 1786, a lottery was held to distribute the other parcels of the patent to various parties. The 460 acre portion which included Fort Stanwix was acquired by William Livingston and Alida Hoffman.¹

In March, 1786, Dominick Lynch, a New York City merchant, purchased the "Expense Lot" at auction, and in July of the same year acquired the portion of the patent which had been owned jointly by Livingston and Hoffman. Through the purchase of contiguous parcels, Lynch increased his holdings in the area to about 2000 acres by 1800.²

During the next decade William Weston, an English engineer, surveyed Lynch's property and in 1796 drew a map indicating the village plan.³ Streets were laid out in a simple grid pattern, forming blocks measuring 400 by 600 feet, with the lengthwise axis running east to west.⁴ The blocks were sub-divided into building lots, each measuring 66 feet wide and 200 feet deep. Access to the interior of the blocks was provided by various alley arrangements. Lynch called the future city Lynchville, and named the two central thoroughfares after himself and his son, James.

Lynch had chosen the location for the site of his proposed settlement carefully and wisely. From earliest times this area of central New York State had been well-served by inland water routes. A portage route, known as the "Oneida Carrying Place," formed a strategic land connection between Wood Creek, which was the beginning of the water route to the Great Lakes, and the Mohawk River, which flowed into the Hudson River and eventually into the Atlantic. Fort Stanwix was one of several defensive structures built during the eighteenth century to protect this transportation route. This connection was greatly improved in 1797 when the Western Inland Lock Navigation Company opened a canal which linked the Mohawk with Wood Creek. A visitor to Rome in 1802 noted that "this water communication is of incalculable benefit to this part of the world. Produce may be sent both ways . . ."⁵ (Fig. 1).

The ruins of Fort Stanwix stood on what was designated on Weston's map as the eastern part of block twelve. It was situated on what are now lots five through fourteen and possibly also on parts of lots four and fifteen. During the next century this block was to play a crucial role in the transformation of the village of Lynchville into the city of Rome.

Among the first conveyances of village land made by Lynch in 1796 were lots three and four in block twelve, where the Empire House now stands. This conveyance, made to John Barnard, took the form of a perpetual lease, rather than an absolute title. It is notable that subsequent deeds to the property dating up through 1864 cited that the land was still subject to ground rent.

In 1826 Virgil Draper, owner and operator of various cotton mills, purchased the two lots where the southeast bastion of the fort had stood. The remains of that structure had been cleared away before a "large square frame dwelling,"⁶ had been built on the site. This building, where Dominick Lynch had resided while in Rome, burned during the summer of 1825.

Edward Huntington, another of the village's early settlers, acquired lot seven, just west of Draper's property. The remainder of the land on which the fort had stood was sold in 1828 by the executors of Dominick Lynch to Wheeler Barnes. This conveyance included lots five and six which fronted on Dominick Street and were bounded on the east by Huntington's lot and on the west by lot four, which had been leased to Barnard in 1796. Also included in attorney Barnes' purchase were lots ten through fifteen which extended from the northeast corner of the block westward toward James Street.

With the exception of the two lots purchased by Draper, the fort site required extensive clearing and leveling in order to transform it into building sites. Evidently some of the earthworks remained, for the same visitor to Rome in 1802 also noted that the fort "is regularly built. The entrenchment is very deep."⁷ An account written in 1857 suggests that part of this entrenchment had been filled in prior to the erection of the east wing of the Empire House.⁸ Before erecting a house on the southwest bastion Barnes had to eliminate "the trenches, embankments, and some of the pickets of the old fort."⁹

The site of the northeast bastion was even less desirable. This area had served for several years as the town dump, where bodies of "dead dogs, hogs, cats, horses and all the rubbish of the town"¹⁰ had been deposited. Interrupted by ditches and trenches, this corner was, in short, a "distressed looking place."¹¹ Indeed, the map drawn by Weston in 1796 and another drawn in 1836¹² show what appears to be an impassible area extending from Embargo Street south in the area of Spring Street, through the northeast corner of the block.

These adverse conditions seem to be reflected in the price of \$150 which Barnes paid for each lot. Draper, by comparison, had paid \$350 for each of his cleared lots, which were the same size.

But despite these difficult circumstances, the essential features of the fort had been destroyed by the end of the 1830's, as buildings were erected on each of the four bastions (Fig. 3). The transformation

of the site of the fort into building sites was indicative of the changes occurring during the early nineteenth century as the settlement mushroomed into a city (Fig. 5).

The potential growth of the village and the enthusiasm of one of its residents were expressed in the following letter sent to I. and J. Townsend of Albany:

Rome, May 9, 1836

Gentlemen-

I take the liberty to send you a rough sketch of this village. The lots marked (x) are sold to individuals and are now the only property in market as Mr. Lynch declines making sales. The map shows it is the best property. We have had the most signal success in our various local projects before the legislature. There remains no doubt that four great public works will be? here viz-Erie Canal - Black River Canal - Utica and Oswego Railroad - Utica and Syracuse Railroad - involving an expenditure for the next four years in the neighborhood of \$4,000.00. Can there remain a doubt as to the prosperity of the town? - The lots in the village plots are each 66 x 200 and those that are in market can be had for from \$50.00 to \$500. Lynchs property is the least desireable of the whole-

Proper reflection you should conclude to look further in this matter shall be glad to aid you. I have no desire to buy for myself as I have as much as I want.

Very respectfully,
J. Stringham¹³

Included in Stringham's real estate holdings in Rome about this time were lots at the northeast corner of block twelve, as well as the residence recently erected by Wheeler Barnes.

Among those who had contributed towards what Stringham termed the "signal success in . . . various local projects before the legislature"¹⁴ was John Stryker, the young lawyer who was soon to build "Liberty Hall" at the corner of Liberty and Spring Streets. Elected to the state assembly in 1835, Stryker directed his energies toward securing "the passage of a charter for the Syracuse & Utica Railroad Company, and to see that its location should be via Rome."¹⁵

Another young lawyer and fellow Democrat who had attended to Rome's interests in Albany was Henry A. Foster, who had represented the district in the state senate between 1830 and 1834. A few years later he purchased several lots fronting on Liberty Street and later

resided in the house on Dominick Street which has since been incorporated into the central block of the Empire House.

Writing in 1879, a citizen of Rome noted that the city was indebted to both Stryker and Foster

for its prosperity in securing the Black River Canal and the Syracuse and Utica Railroad, active against adverse interests, and the change of the Erie Canal from the Rome Swamp to the center of the city--from which time Rome has continued to increase in prosperity, on a sound basis, and which have been the means of adding five-fold to her population.¹⁶

The original route of the Erie Canal through the Rome Swamp rather than through the village had been intensely resented by many of Rome's citizens, who maintained that the future of the settlement was tied to advantageous water routes:

The ground upon which the village stands was originally purchased at a high price with a view to these advantages, and has been since sold in lots to the present inhabitants at a valuation greatly enhanced and indeed almost entirely made up from a calculation of the benefits arising from this internal improvement. It necessarily became a place of business; and having no more apprehension of being deprived of our water communication than of the soil upon which our dwellings were situated, buildings for trade have been erected, storehouses built, and money to a large amount invested in improvements suited to our situation.¹⁷

The state had purchased and destroyed the old Inland canal. A disturbed citizen lamented over these changes:

At one blow, everything that gave us peculiar advantages--for which our money had been lavishly paid, upon the improvement and embellishment of which our fortunes have been spent, and upon which we hoped to have lived and prospered is taken from us.¹⁸

A Rome newspaper announced with apologies to its readers the festivities for the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 and vowed that its citizens would effect a change in the route of the canal.¹⁹ Stryker and Foster in their influential political positions aided the cause.

The men who built and occupied the residences on the site of the fort were, furthermore, intimately involved with the industries developing in Rome during the mid- and late-nineteenth century. John and Thomas Stryker and Willey J. P. and Willey L. Kingsley served at various times as presidents and directors of the Rome Locomotive Works and the Rome Iron Works. The Kingsleys, who lived just west of the Strykers on Liberty Street, served also as presidents of the Rome

Brass and Copper Company. Among the first officers of the Rome Gas Light Company were Alva Mudge, who had remodeled the former Barnes house, and John Stryker. John Stryker, W. J. P. Kingsley, and Henry Foster were all elected bank presidents. Virgil Draper for many years operated cotton mills, and Alva Mudge and his son founded the Mudge and Ames Knitting Works, although Mudge was better known for his grocery business. The industrial and commercial history of Rome cannot be written without these men.

Nor can the political history. While several aspired to state and national office and many were successful, they also served consistently on the local level. Barnes, Foster, Mudge, George Brown, George Barnard, Alfred Cole, W. J. P. Kingsley--all held local office, with Foster and Kingsley both elected mayor.

These men also contributed their money and energy towards charitable causes. Among these men were founders of the Deaf Mute Institute in Rome, directors of the Jervis Library, and the Rome Cemetery Association, and Willey J. Kingsley donated his family home to the Women's General Study Club. Throughout the years the occupants of these five buildings were all members of either the First Presbyterian Church or Zion Episcopal Church. Barnes, Mudge, Draper, Foster, and John Barnard were all Presbyterians. Stringham, George Barnard, and the Strykers were active Episcopalians, although M. Woolsey Stryker was ordained a Presbyterian minister. With all these common business, political, and social interests the men who erected and occupied these buildings must have been well acquainted with each other.

The buildings which these men erected, occupied, and modernized were very substantially constructed and reflected the changing architectural tastes of the times. In fact, the buildings on the site of the fort are an important indication not only of the character of their owners but of American architectural styles as they evolved throughout the nineteenth century. While the arrangement of the buildings and the historical associations connected with them are necessarily unique, their specific forms characterize the rich variety of nineteenth and early twentieth century American architectural styles and living patterns.

The Barnes house is an interesting example of the evolution of a building as tastes changed. It was built about 1830 as the home of Wheeler Barnes, then a prominent attorney in the city. It is notable that Barnes, who was then 48 years old, erected his house in the Federal style, at a time when the Greek Revival style was sweeping the Mohawk Valley. At the southeast corner of the block Virgil Draper, seven years Barnes' junior, had just completed his new dwelling with a fashionable, two-story pedimented portico. But Barnes' substantial, well-proportioned dwelling with its Flemish bond facade must have served to confirm his standing in the community as a prosperous lawyer.

The exterior of the building was soon changed to reflect the

tastes of its later owner, Alva Mudge. When he purchased the house in 1841, Mudge was thirty-five years old, and dwellings with columned porticos were a well-established building style. To the Barnes house, Mudge added a portico extending across the central three bays of the south facade. This arrangement provided the house with a gable facing the street. Supporting the pediment were four fluted columns with capitals of elegantly carved acanthus leaves. With their pendants also terminating in an acanthus leaf motif, new cornice brackets marked the division between bays and with the central cupola hinted at the Italianate style just coming into vogue. Mudge also added a one and one-half story wing with a porch, reminiscent in form and detailing to the wings added to smaller, wooden Greek Revival houses throughout the Mohawk Valley. The fanlight doorway, too, was appropriately updated by the placement of two matching fluted columns where the sidelights had been. During the latter part of the century the window and door trim and the column capitals and bases were painted a darker color, and the column shafts were painted the same color as the exterior walls. The interior of the house, apparently at a later date, was modernized with a new stairway, marble mantelpieces, and cornices typical of the 1860's and 1870's.

The Kingsley house, located near the site of the northwest bastion, also appears to be a very heavily remodeled version of an earlier house. The appearance of central block of the earlier brick house was enlivened with bay windows, a mansard roof, and a bracketed cornice and stoop. Further testimony to the family's liking for the popular "French roof" is the mansard-roof playhouse, which has been moved from the Kingsley yard east to the Stryker grounds. Marble mantelpieces, elaborately moulded and carved cornices, and the heavy balustrade are typical interior details of houses erected during the third quarter of the century.

Changing needs and tastes brought about the conversion of both the Stryker and Kingsley houses, as well as the Draper House, into the headquarters of clubs, all during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

In comparison, the house built by John Stryker in 1839 remains relatively unchanged. The library wing on the west was added by 1851, but care was taken to emulate the style of the original part of the house, and this same attention was paid to the rear additions. The most major changes were made when the porch and covered balcony with their iron work supports were added, and similar iron supports substituted for the wooden columns of the entrance porch. In the early twentieth century the two dormers on the main block of the house were added.

The functions and form of the old east wing of the Empire House changed many times, as the building was transformed from a tavern, to a residence, to a boarding school, to a boarding house, and finally again into a tavern and hotel. The main block of the Empire House as it now stands is a notable example of frame hotel architecture of the late nineteenth century. It is representative of a building type

that once played an important role in urban history but is now rapidly disappearing from the American city. Both the plan of the building and the exterior fabric remain largely intact, and the walls and ceilings of the public spaces are embellished with a remarkable variety of pressed sheet metal designs.

In addition to these structures many others have been built on the site of the fort over the years. Among those still standing is the enclosed tennis court structure that was later occupied by the Rome Historical Society. Three houses on the site have been destroyed. A two-story wooden frame house long occupied by Patrick Martin, owner of a livery, stood just east of the tennis courts. At the rear of the Draper house and fronting on Spring Street was another two-story frame dwelling also built by Draper and at one time occupied by his widowed daughter. Builder Daniel B. Prince's house which stood on the northeast bastion of the fort was moved to another site and converted to a private hospital. In addition, the Lynch house and a log cabin stood near the southeast bastion at one time.¹⁸ Barnes' law office building stood just southwest of his brick house and to the east were various buildings which served as offices of Edward Huntington. As a quick survey of the maps and views will show, there have been a great variety and number of outbuildings erected on the site over the years, including Prince's carpenter shop, Cole's "tenements," a twentieth century stone garage, and earlier barns used to house horses and carriages. From an archeological standpoint it is important to realize that at least forty per cent of the site of the fort has been covered at various times with buildings.

It is also significant that this block which was the location of the homes of some of Rome's most outstanding industrial, civic, and political leaders of the nineteenth century was in a pivotal geographical location. Half a block east was the Black River Canal which extended northwest to Watertown and connected with Lake Ontario. On the block to the southwest was the Rome Iron Works and later the Rome Brass and Copper Company. Just southwest was the enlarged Erie Canal and its junction with the Black River Canal. Here too the New York Central Railroad crossed both canals. South and west of the block was the main commercial area of Rome. Northwest of the block were the municipal and county government buildings as well as a large residential area (Fig. 4).

In Rome, particularly, Fort Stanwix has assumed almost legendary importance for the role it played in military history of the late eighteenth century. It is, however, significant to note that the fort did not relate to either the village of Lynchville or the city of Rome as neither existed at the same time as the fort. The buildings now standing on the site of the fort, because of their architectural qualities and their social, economic, and historical associations are inexorably intertwined with the development of Rome from a frontier town into an industrial and transportation oriented city in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. As an historic ensemble compactly located within one city block, these buildings form a unique historical environment which dramatically illustrates in bricks and mortar the history of Rome as an urban area.

FOOTNOTES
GENERAL HISTORY

¹Samuel W. Durant, History of Oneida County, New York (Philadelphia: Evert & Fariss, 1878), p. 375.

²Ibid.

³William Weston, "Map of Lynchville," 1796.

⁴The existing block and lot numbers have been changed from the original numbers. The block on which Fort Stanwix stood was originally block twelve, but is now block seven. The present parcel numbers do not correspond to the original lot numbers. In tracing the history of the block over a period of about 175 years, it was necessary to refer to these original lot numbers, which are shown on the 1874 map.

⁵"Journal of Rev. John Taylor's Missionary Tour through the Mohawk & Black River Countries in 1802," The Documentary History of the State of New-York (Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1850), III, p. 1138.

⁶Daniel E. Wager, Our City and Its People, a Descriptive Work on the City of Rome New York (Boston: The Boston History Company, 1896), p. 52.

⁷Rev. John Taylor, p. 1136.

⁸Rome Directory, 1857.

⁹Wager, p. 52.

¹⁰Ibid., p. 115.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Map accompanying letter from J. Stringham to I. and J. Townsend, 1836, in Manuscript Collection, New York State Library.

¹³Letter from Stringham to I. and J. Townsend, 1836.

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵"Death of Hon. John Stryker," Rome Daily Sentinel, May 1, 1885.

¹⁶Rome Republican, October 26, 1825.

¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹Ibid.

PART II: HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS

BARNES-MUDGE HOUSE (ROME CLUB)

Location: 115 East Dominick Street, Rome, Oneida County,
New York.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The land on which the city of Rome is now located was included in the Oriskany Patent, which was granted to Thomas Weston and others about 1705. In 1785 the patent was surveyed and divided into allotments. Previous to that time a parcel located to the south and west of the remains of Fort Stanwix had been surveyed and reserved for sale at an auction, in order to pay for the expense of surveying the remainder of the patent. This parcel was subsequently termed the "Expense Lot."

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Within the next decade William Weston, an English engineer, surveyed Lynch's property and in 1796 drew a map indicating the village plan.³ Streets were arranged in a simple grid pattern, forming blocks measuring 400 by 600 feet, with the lengthwise axis running east to west.⁴ The blocks were subdivided into building lots, each measuring 66 feet wide and 200 feet deep. Access to the interior of the blocks was provided by various alley arrangements. Lynch called the future city Lynchville, and named the two central thoroughfares after himself and his son, James.

Lynch had chosen the site of his proposed settlement carefully and wisely. From earliest times this area of central New York State had been well-served by inland water routes. A portage route, known as the "Oneida Carrying Place," formed a strategic land connection between Wood Creek, which was the beginning of the water route to the Great Lakes, and the Mohawk River, which flowed into the Hudson River and eventually into the Atlantic. Fort Stanwix was one of several defensive structures built during the eighteenth century to protect this transportation route. This connection was greatly improved in 1797 when the Western Inland Lock Navigation Company opened a canal which linked the Mohawk with Wood Creek. A visitor to Rome in 1802 noted that "this water communication is of incalculable benefit to this part of the world. Produce may be sent both ways . . ."⁵

The ruins of Fort Stanwix stood on what was designated on Weston's map as the eastern part of block twelve. It was situated on what are now lots five through fourteen and possibly also on parts of lots four and fifteen. During the next century this block was to play a crucial role in the transformation of the village of Lynchville into the city of Rome.

Included in the eight lots in block twelve which Wheeler Barnes purchased on July 25, 1828, from the executors of Dominick Lynch were lots five and six.⁶ Barnes chose these two lots, which had a 132 foot frontage on Dominick Street as the site on which to erect for himself, a new residence, befitting a prominent lawyer and politician of Rome.⁷ At this time Barnes also owned the adjoining lots three and four, on which stood what is now the west wing of the Empire House. His law office was already located in a small frame building situated near the street between lot five and the Empire House property.⁸

As late as 1828, when the property was conveyed to Barnes, a considerable amount of the structure of the fort reportedly remained and much work was necessary to transform the site into level building lots:

At that time [1828] the trenches, embankments, and some of the pickets of the old fort remained. The old block-house was there, although much decayed and riddled with bullets. Nelson Dawley, later of Annsville, had the job of leveling down and clearing the block-house and this part of the fort preparatory to the erection of the residence of Mr. Barnes.⁹

Rome historian Daniel Wager claimed that the house "was erected in 1828,"¹⁰ although considering that Barnes did not hold title to the land until midsummer and that so much clearing and leveling was required, it seems more likely that work was begun in that year, but not completed.

The building was almost certainly finished by 1830, for in June of that year Barnes sold the adjoining lots, numbers three and four,¹¹ and in August mortgaged lots five and six for \$2000.¹² Barnes and F. Olmstead, who may have been Barnes' father-in-law, had also been granted a bond against the property.¹³ In 1828 Barnes had paid only \$300 for the lots, and it seems unlikely that just two years later he would have been able to mortgage them for \$2000, unless a substantial building had been erected before the mortgage was issued.

The house erected by Barnes forms only part of the building as it stands today. A map drawn in 1834¹⁴ indicates that the building was rectangular in plan and had a gabled roof with its ridge running east and west (see photocopy accompanying this report). Judging from physical evidence, it appears that what is now the central block of the house, extending north to the partition at the rear of the stair-hall, is the portion constructed by Barnes. A. H. Brainerd performed some of the carpentry work while Ormond Butler did the masonry work.¹⁵

Without the two-story entrance portico and the west and north wings, the house as originally built presented quite a different appearance than it does today. Barnes commissioned what was essentially a Federal style house, with a Flemish bond facade, incised keyed lintels over double-hung sash in each bay, and a doorway with a broad fanlight. The gabled roofline of the Barnes house was very different from the present hipped roof surmounted by a cupola.

The Barnes house when built must have been considered quite a substantial and large building. At the southeast corner of the block Virgil Draper had just constructed a frame dwelling with a two-story portico, but this structure was considerably smaller in scale. By 1830 Emma and Wheeler Barnes must have needed a large home for their growing family. A daughter had been born in 1827,¹⁶ enlarging their household to eleven persons.¹⁷ Another son and daughter were born in the new house.¹⁸

On the day after Christmas in 1833 Barnes sold his house to Joseph Stringham, of Rome. Also included in this conveyance was half of lot 42 in Fonda's Patent, consisting of $515\frac{1}{2}$ acres. Stringham obtained these two parcels for \$700, subject to payment of the \$200 mortgage with interest and the Barnes-Olmstead bond, both held by the New York Life Insurance and Trust Company.¹⁹ In January, 1834, Emma Barnes signed a quit claim deed, relinquishing any interest she held in the property.²⁰

About the time he purchased the Barnes house, Stringham was employed as the first cashier of the old Rome Bank.²¹ Evidently he was also interested in land speculation. In the letter he wrote to two gentlemen in Albany in 1836, he frankly stated his opinion that Rome's future prosperity was inevitable and he urged these men to investigate the possibilities of investing in the city's real estate.²² He closed the letter by noting that "I have no desire to buy for myself as I have as much as I want."²³

Within two years after writing this enthusiastic letter, however, Stringham had moved westward to Buffalo, where he owned a newspaper,²⁴ served as city clerk, and was secretary of the Western Insurance Company of Buffalo.

On April 27, 1838, Stringham conveyed the Dominick Street property through a quit claim deed to William M. Tallman for \$1648 but subject still to Barnes' mortgage and the bond.²⁵ The 1840 census indicates that Tallman was engaged in a "learned profession" or as an engineer, and suggests that three young children, a young man, and an older woman resided with Tallman and his wife.²⁶ Tallman paid off \$200 of the principal of the mortgage.

During the spring of 1841 Tallman sold the property to Alva Mudge for \$7000 subject to the payment of the balance of the mortgage with interest and the bond.²⁷ This conveyance provided that the Tallmans could occupy the house until the first of October. Mention in the deed of "the buildings thereon"²⁸ suggests that outbuildings had also been erected.

Alva Mudge was engaged in the grocery business and had begun business in Rome in 1826 at the age of twenty. Mudge was active in local politics. He was a founder of the Rome Gas Light Company, organized in 1852, and was vice-president of the Rome Exchange Bank. His real estate holdings in 1850 were valued at \$28,000,²⁹ by 1860 they had increased to \$70,000, and his personal estate was valued at \$15,000.³⁰

A map published in 1851 clearly indicates that important changes had been made to the house by that time. The pedimented portico with four fluted columns, the west porch wing, and an ell on the north (rear) side had all been added.³¹ At the northwest corner of the property was a large outbuilding and a smaller one.

Judging from the short periods of ownership by Stringham and Tallman and considering Mudge's affluence, it is most likely that Mudge was responsible for the changes. When he purchased the house in 1841, Mudge was 35 years old. By this time buildings in the Greek Revival style were quite common throughout the Mohawk Valley and Italianate villas were also coming into vogue. By adding the pedimented portico and west porch wing and by changing the gabled roof to a hipped roof with a cupola and bracketed cornice, Mudge must have felt he was getting the best of both styles added to his Federal house (see photocopy c. 1905 photo accompanying this report). The interior was also remodeled with marble mantelpieces, a new staircase, and moulded plaster cornices.

By 1870 Mudge had retired and his real estate holdings had dropped in value to \$40,000, and his personal estate to \$5000.³² His son Jerome, whose personal wealth was valued at \$5000, had married and was the father of a year old daughter.³³ Living in the house with the elder and younger Mudges were a male laborer and two female servants.

In 1875 Jerome Mudge was listed in the city directory as the secretary and treasurer of the Mudge and Ames Knitting Works.³⁴ The president was Cheney Ames, who evidently did not reside in Rome. Alva Mudge's financial backing may have been responsible for the arrangement of the names in the firm's title.

The knitting mills soon experienced financial difficulties. Because Alva Mudge was liable for the "obligations" of the mills, Mudge and his wife on March 13, 1876, were forced to mortgage their home, two farms, and commercial property at the corner of Dominick and James Streets for \$1.00.³⁵ While the mortgage was intended to insure payment of only \$6147.39, the notes issued by the company far exceeded that amount. Among the investors in the company were N. Hyde Leffingwell, E. B. Armstorn, Daniel B. Prince, and David Utley, who alone held \$12,000 in notes.

Apparently the mills failed, for the Mudge house was sold at a sheriff's sale in June, 1877.³⁶ The property was purchased for \$10,000 by N. H. Leffingwell, who on the same day conveyed half of his interest in the property to Harmon G. Utley for \$1.00.³⁷ Three weeks later the property was sold to James N. Parker for \$9000, subject to certain water rents, taxes and assessments which had not been paid.³⁸ In 1882 Parker mortgaged the property for \$4444.96.³⁹

Evidently an understanding had been reached with Mudge's creditors that he have life tenancy of the house. Throughout the rest of his life he was listed in the city directories as residing in the house, and the tax assessments were listed under his name. Living with Mudge and his wife in 1880 were four "boarders," three of whom were apparently Jerome's children.⁴⁰ Jerome had appeared in the 1877 city directory as an agent for the Fort Stanwix Knitting Mills,⁴¹ but his name and the mill were not listed in subsequent directories. The Mudges also employed two servants, one of whom was the gardener, who had been employed by the family since at least 1870.

Mudge died about 1885. His contributions to the city were described thus:

During his long life in Rome he was prominently identified with the growth of the place, and as trustee of the village, of the Presbyterian church, a director in the banks and various other enterprises, he gained the confidence and respect of the community.⁴²

On July 15, 1886, George Barnard purchased the house for \$2201.60, subject to the \$4444.96 mortgage of 1882.⁴³ Barnard was considered one of Rome's outstanding citizens of the late nineteenth century. Born in 1836, he was married in 1857 to Jane S. Fuller of Rome and was the father of three sons, all of whom resided in Rome. He served as trustee of the Utica State Hospital and as warden of Zion Episcopal Church. Described as a "staunch Democrat," he was supervisor of Rome for several terms and mayor for one term. His standing in the community was indicated by the following account:

Probably no man stood higher in the esteem of the people of Rome than George Barnard. Affable and courteous to rich and poor alike, with a kindly word for everybody, he was looked up to as one of Rome's leading business men and his advice in financial matters was largely sought.⁴⁴

In 1860 he had joined the Fort Stanwix National Bank as a bookkeeper and in 1876 was promoted to cashier, a position he held for the remainder of his life. His suicide in January, 1896, followed by the failing of the bank, shook the city of Rome profoundly.

Because Barnard's assets were not sufficient to satisfy his debts, his real estate holdings were sold at a public sale in April, 1899. Purchaser of the Dominick Street house was George's widow, Jane S. Barnard,⁴⁵ who afterwards resided in the house with her oldest son, Charles, and his wife.

A map published in 1907 indicates that the Barnards had not made changes in the general plan of the house (see HABS photocopy accompanying this report). The earlier photograph of the house, probably dating from between 1901 and 1907, shows how the building appeared during the Mudge and Barnes occupancy. By 1907 a barn occupied the northeast corner of the lot.

In October, 1908, Jane S. Barnard sold the property to the Rome Club for \$10,175,⁴⁶ presumably subject to the Parker mortgage of \$4444.96, which was satisfied during the following day.⁴⁷ Incorporated in 1882, the Rome Club had previously been located at 189 West Dominick Street.

The house was adapted to its new function as a social club by additions to the building. The west wing was raised from one and one-half stories to two stories, and a dining room with a bow front was added on the east. Constructed at the rear (north) was a large wing, which consisted of a one-story kitchen and a two-story section containing a dining room on the second floor. This work was apparently carried out quite soon after the building was purchased, for in December, 1908, the Club mortgaged the property for \$30,000.⁴⁸ In 1930 the room east of the center hall was used as a reading room and the room opposite as a writing room.⁴⁹

The wooden frame house shown in the c. 1930 photograph (see HABS photocopy) had been moved to the site by 1930 and was evidently used as a dwelling for the chef of the Club. This dwelling is similar in appearance to the building just west of the Barnard house as illustrated in the circa 1878 view (see HABS photocopy accompanying this report). It may be the same building moved to the new location just before Willey J. Kingsley built the tennis court west of the Club, shortly after 1908. In any case, the building was on the Club property in 1915.⁵⁰

FOOTNOTES

¹Samuel W. Durant, History of Oneida County, New York (Philadelphia: Evert & Fariss, 1878), p. 375.

²Ibid.

³William Weston, "Map of Lynchville," 1796.

⁴The existing block and lot numbers have been changed from the original numbers. The block on which Fort Stanwix stood was originally block twelve, but is now block seven. The present parcel numbers do not correspond to the original lot numbers. In tracing the history of the block over a period of about 175 years, it was necessary to refer to these original lot numbers, which are shown on the 1874 map.

⁵"Journal of Rev. John Taylor's Missionary Tour through the Mohawk & Black River Countries in 1802," The Documentary History of the State of New-York (Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1850), III, p. 1138.

⁶Oneida County Deeds, Book 48, p. 110.

⁷For more biographical material on Barnes, see Part I of Diana S. Waite's "History of Nineteenth Century Urban Complex on the Site of Fort Stanwix," prepared by HABS for the Rome Urban Renewal Agency in June, 1970.

⁸Durant, p. 378.

⁹Daniel E. Wager, Our City and Its People, a Descriptive Work on the City of Rome New York (Boston: The Boston History Company, 1896), p. 52.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Oneida County Deeds, Book 51, p. 109.

¹²Ibid., Mortgages, Book 18, p. 65.

¹³Ibid., Deeds, Book 63, p. 286.

¹⁴New York State Canal Commissioners, comp., Erie Canal From a Survey Made by Holmes Hutchinson (1834), Vol. 7, plate 53.

¹⁵Wager, p. 52.

¹⁶Seventh Census (1850), New York, Vol. 61, Oneida County, p. 30.

¹⁷Fifth Census (1830), New York, Vol. 16, Oneida County, p. 386.

¹⁸Seventh Census (1850), p. 30.

¹⁹Oneida County Deeds, Book 63, p. 286.

²⁰Ibid., p. 341.

²¹Wager, p. 76.

²²Letter from J. Stringham to I. and J. Townsend, 1836, in Manuscript Collection, New York State Library.

²³Ibid.

²⁴Perry E. Smith, ed., History of the City of Buffalo and Erie County (Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., 1884), II, p. 333.

²⁵Oneida County Deeds, Book 86, p. 16.

²⁶Sixth Census (1840), New York, Vol. 25, Oneida County, p. 93.

²⁷Wager (p. 52) writes that Mudge purchased the property in 1837, but legal records contradict this statement.

²⁸Oneida County Deeds, Book 100, p. 463.

²⁹Seventh Census (1850), New York, Vol. 61, Oneida County, p. 37.

³⁰Eighth Census (1860), New York, Vol. 64, Oneida County, p. 395.

³¹Henry Hart, surveyor, Map of Rome Oneida County New York . . . 1851.

- ³²Ninth Census (1870), New York, Vol. 77, Oneida County, p. 28.
- ³³Ibid.
- ³⁴Rome Directory, 1875.
- ³⁵Oneida County Mortgages, Book 219, p. 126.
- ³⁶Oneida County Deeds, Book 372, p. 438.
- ³⁷Ibid., Book 372, p. 437.
- ³⁸Ibid., p. 438.
- ³⁹Oneida County Mortgages, Book 257, p. 358.
- ⁴⁰Tenth Census (1880), New York, Vol. 69, Oneida County, p. 28.
- ⁴¹Rome Directory, 1877.
- ⁴²Wager, p. 121.
- ⁴³Oneida County Deeds, Book 451, p. 109.
- ⁴⁴"Suicide of Geo. Barnard," Rome Daily Sentinel, January 31, 1896.
- ⁴⁵Oneida County Deeds, Book 553, p. 60.
- ⁴⁶Ibid., Book 645, p. 233.
- ⁴⁷Oneida County Mortgages, Book 257, p. 358.
- ⁴⁸Ibid., Book 440, p. 174.
- ⁴⁹Insurance Map of Rome Including Stanwix Village and Ridge Mills
(New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1930), n.p.
- ⁵⁰New York State Census, 1915, Vol. 363, p. 19.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: Two stories throughout except for kitchen wing and grille wing which are both one story.
2. Number of bays: South (front) facade is five bays wide; south facade of west wing is two bays wide. Rear kitchen-ballroom wing is five bays wide on first floor, four bays on second floor; east facade of this wing is six bays wide.
3. Over-all dimensions: South (front) facade of main block measures approximately 52 feet; the west facade of the

building including rear wing measures approximately 102 feet.

4. Layout, shape: To central block of house, which is rectangular in plan, have been added a west wing, a rear wing, and a wing at the northeast corner of the building.
5. Foundations: Main block of house has cut stone foundations with stone water table. Foundations of west wing are of brick covered with stucco and coursed; other foundations are of brick covered with stucco and roughly coursed.
6. Wall construction, finish and color: Walls are of brick, painted gray. South (front) facade is laid up in Flemish bond, other walls in American bond.
7. Porches: Across central three bays of south (front) facade is a full two-story portico with fluted columns having Corinthian-like capitals of acanthus leaves and simple pilasters with similar capitals and bases on facade. Granite steps lead up to wooden floor of porch, which has a rusticated foundation. Porch of west wing has been extended and enclosed.
8. Chimneys: Two corbeled chimneys along west wall of main block and two along east facade; one chimney on west wall of west wing and on west wall of ballroom wing.
9. Openings:
 - a. Doorways: Main entrance to house is through doorway in central bay of south facade. There are two pilasters beside door and a fanlight over door. Door is wooden and has two horizontal panels.
 - b. Windows: Windows have six-over-six light double hung sash. First floor openings on south facade have been transformed to six-light French windows with iron grilles. Stone lintels in central block have suggestion of keystone motif; rest of lintels are flat.
10. Roof:
 - a. Shape: Central block has low hipped roof. Wings have flat roofs; portico has gabled roof.
 - b. Cornice: Wooden cornice with dentil motif and brackets ending in pendants of acanthus leaves.
 - c. Cupola: Wooden cupola over central block of house also has cornice with dentil motif.

B. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: First floor: Center hall plan, with single flight of stairs on west hall wall leading to second floor. There are two rooms to the west of the central hall in the main block of the house: a large room at the southwest corner now used as the ladies' lounge, and a smaller room in the northwest corner, now divided by a partition running north and south to form two rooms, now used as a ladies' foyer and the ladies' rest room. East of the center hall is a large room that once must have been a parlor but is now used as the men's lounge. To the north of this central block several additions have been made. To the north and west of the ladies' foyer is a large room now used as the ladies' dining room; this room originally consisted of a porch on the south and an enclosed room on the north. Proceeding east, there is a hallway leading from the ladies' foyer to the bar. In the central portion there are two flights of stairs built around a dumb-waiter and storage space; this section is divided by a north-south partition, east of which is the men's rest room. Further north is another addition. This consists of a men's grille with a large bow window forming the east wall and in the central portion a barroom. Further west is a pantry. North of the bar in the central portion is a dining room; west of this is the kitchen.

Second floor: The stairway leads up to a large second floor hallway. Opening off the east side of the hall are two large bedrooms, separated by closets which form the east-west partition. A small room opens off the south wall of the hallway. The space in the central block of the house, to the west of the stairway has been adapted to caretaker's quarters, consisting of a bedroom in the southwest corner and a living room adjoining on the north. Further north in this west section are a kitchen, bathroom, and two bedrooms. Opening off the north wall of the central stairway is a small hallway running east and west. On the south wall of this hall is the back stairway, and on the west wall is the doorway to the caretaker's quarters. Opening off the wall of this hall is a large ballroom.

2. Stairways: The central stairway dates from the mid-nineteenth century. The balustrade consists of a heavy newel post and turned balusters of dark wood. The risers and treads are painted and covered with modern carpeting, and the stringer is decorated with scroll-work brackets.
3. Flooring, wall and ceiling finish, doorways and doors, decorative features and trim, notable hardware:

Men's lounge: Modern hardwood flooring; plaster walls covered with modern wallpaper, chair rail; plastered ceiling with plaster cornice, all painted white; window architraves with corner blocks; double doorway (doors removed) on west wall opening into hall, center and corner blocks; fireplace along east wall of black marble with tan and white veins, and marble hearth. Spanning the room from east to west near the north wall is a large shallow arch supported at each end by consoles with acanthus leaves.

Ladies' lounge: Modern hardwood floor, plastered walls covered with wallpaper which has been painted; ceiling of modern acoustical tile, simple plaster cornice; two, eighteen-light French doors on east wall open into hall; simple architrave woodwork around doorway on north wall and windows; shorter simpler baseboard than in parlor.

Ladies' foyer: Modern tile floor; plastered walls covered with modern wallpaper; acoustical tile ceiling and modern molding; on west wall marble mantelpiece with round-arched opening; paneled door on west wall south of fireplace has upper section of nine lights; window north of fireplace on same west wall has been covered over. The east portion of this room has been separated by a north-south partition and remodeled into a ladies' rest room.

Ladies' dining room: The south portion of this room was once a porch that now is enclosed. Floor covered with wall-to-wall carpeting; ceiling of plasterboard; paneled transoms above windows. The north portion of this room was once a separate room. Floor covered with wall-to-wall carpeting, painted plaster walls with picture molding about 14 inches below ceiling line; on west wall a mantelpiece similar to that in men's lounge; ceiling of plasterboard.

Main dining room: Floor covered with wall-to-wall carpeting; acoustical tile ceiling; walls covered with modern wood paneling separated by picture molding from a narrow plaster or plasterboard section near ceiling.

Bar and men's grille: Modern tile floor, modern acoustical tile ceiling; plastered walls painted.

Office and men's coat room: Vaulted ceiling covered with plaster; concrete floor; walls covered with wooden paneling; modern fireplace along east wall.

Second floor: Hallway: Hardwood floor, acoustical tile ceiling, plastered walls covered with modern wallpaper; doors leading to bedrooms have six panels.

Southeast bedroom: Modern hardwood floors; plastered walls covered with wallpaper; plastered ceiling with plaster cornice; two windows on south wall have wooden panels below; closet doors open off of west part of north wall; marble mantelpiece similar to that in ladies' lounge, hearth of encaustic and other decorative tile.

Northeast bedroom: Modern hardwood floor; plastered ceiling, simple plaster cornice; plastered walls covered with wallpaper now painted; closet doorway at east part of south wall.

South (hall) bedroom: Hardwood floor, plastered ceiling and walls, covered with wallpaper.

Ballroom: Hardwood floor, modern acoustical tile ceiling, plastered walls, painted green, chair rail and paneling.

C. Site and Surroundings:

1. Orientation and general setting: South facade faces onto Dominick Street
2. Walks: Sidewalk leads from Dominick Street to portico and westward from front steps to side entrance.

COLE-KINGSLEY HOUSE
(WOMAN'S COMMUNITY CENTER)

Location: 110 East Liberty Street, Rome, Oneida County, New York.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The land on which the city of Rome is now located was included in the Oriskany Patent, which was granted to Thomas Weston and others about 1705. In 1785 the patent was surveyed and divided into allotments. Previous to that time a parcel located to the south and west of the remains of Fort Stanwix had been surveyed and reserved for sale at an auction, in order to pay for the expense of surveying the remainder of the patent. This parcel was subsequently termed the "Expense Lot."

On January 9, 1786, a lottery was held to distribute the other parcels of the patent to various parties. The 460 acre portion which included Fort Stanwix was acquired by William Livingston and Alida Hoffman.¹

In March, 1786, Dominick Lynch, a New York City merchant, purchased the "Expense Lot" at auction, and in July of the same year acquired the portion of the patent which had been owned jointly by Livingston and Hoffman. Through the purchase of contiguous parcels, Lynch increased his holdings in the area to about 2000 acres by 1800.²

Within the next decade William Weston, an English engineer, surveyed Lynch's property and in 1796 drew a map indicating the village plan.³ Streets were arranged in a simple grid pattern, forming blocks measuring 400 by 600 feet, with the lengthwise axis running east to west.⁴ The blocks were sub-divided into building lots, each measuring 66 feet wide and 200 feet deep. Access to the interior of the blocks was provided by various alley arrangements. Lynch called the future city Lynchville, and named the two central thoroughfares after himself and his son, James.

Lynch had chosen the site of his proposed settlement carefully and wisely. From earliest times this area of central New York State had been well-served by inland water routes. A portage route, known as the "Oneida Carrying Place," formed a strategic land connection between Wood Creek, which was the beginning of the water route to the Great Lakes, and the Mohawk River, which flowed into the Hudson River and eventually into the Atlantic. Fort Stanwix was one of several defensive structures built during the eighteenth century to protect this transportation route. This connection was greatly improved in 1797 when the Western Inland Lock Navigation Company opened a canal which linked the Mohawk with Wood Creek. A visitor to Rome in 1802 noted that "this water communication is of incalculable benefit to this part of the world. Produce may be sent both ways . . ."⁵

The ruins of Fort Stanwix stood on what was designated on Weston's map as the eastern part of block twelve. It was situated on what are now lots five through fourteen and possibly also on parts of lots four and fifteen. During the next century this block was to play a crucial role in the transformation of the village of Lynchville into the city of Rome.

The parcel of land on which the Woman's Community Center now stands was included among the lots purchased by Wheeler Barnes from the executors of Dominick Lynch in 1828.⁶ Seven years later these lots, along with others at the northeast corner of the block, were purchased from Barnes by John Stryker,⁷ builder of "Liberty Hall," at the corner of Liberty and Spring Streets. Stryker sold these lots shortly thereafter,⁸ but in April, 1838, he purchased them again from K. Stringham, of Buffalo.⁹ On the same day Stryker mortgaged these two lots as well as the two lots adjacent on the east to Stringham,¹⁰ and this mortgage was satisfied by the agreed terms in 1840.¹¹

On March 26, 1846, Stryker and his wife sold a forty-five foot strip of their holding fronting on Liberty Street for \$900 to Alfred W. Cole, of Rome.¹² This parcel, which straddled the division line of lots twelve and thirteen, consisted of the western 24 feet of lot twelve and the eastern 21 feet of lot thirteen.¹³ Two days later Cole mortgaged the land to Stryker for the whole amount of the purchase price,¹⁴ and the mortgage was satisfied two years later.¹⁵

This forty-five foot wide parcel purchased by Cole in 1846 formed the core of the land on which the Woman's Community Center now stands. Over the years the size of the parcel was increased through the purchase of several adjacent strips of land, finally resulting in the present 142 foot frontage along Liberty Street.

Cole was a painter and glazier who had emigrated to America from England.¹⁶ When he purchased these lots, he was only 25 years old¹⁷ and did not have any children. The house he erected was constructed of brick.¹⁸ It is shown on a map published in 1851¹⁹ as a relatively large building, rectangular in plan with its longer axis parallel to the street. The building had a four columned porch extending across the entire south facade. The house was valued at \$6000 in 1855.²⁰

At the rear of the lot were three buildings, which formed a U-shaped complex around an open space. These buildings apparently were Cole's "tenements on Stone Alley," mentioned in 1857.²¹ In 1857 Cole's shop was located on James Street nearly opposite the post office,²² so at that time he apparently did not use these buildings as his workshop. Also shown on the 1851 map are two small outbuildings bordering the west property line.

Living on these premises in 1850 in addition to Cole and his wife, Emma, were Timothy Kellogg, who was a druggist, A ? Kellogg, and a young Welsh woman, presumably a servant.²³ Five years later the Kelloggs had been replaced by English-born George Scott, who was also a druggist and curiously was listed as head of the household although he was five years younger than Cole.²⁴

Cole formed a partnership with George Russ, who also had traveled to Rome from England and who had learned his trade from Cole.²⁵ By 1860 Russ was listed as a "Master Painter."²⁶ A few years later Russ placed the following advertisement in a Rome newspaper. This notice was indicative of the styles of the times and probably of Cole's work during that period, as well:

PAPER HANGINGS

AND

DECORATIONS.

The cheapest place in town to buy,
and the largest assortment of

GOLD, SATIN
AND
COMMON PAPERS

Papers in imitation of

WOODS, MARBLES, AND FRESCO.

Decorations of all kinds

Panel Work, Block Work, &c., &c.²⁷

Russ later expanded his business to become a plumber.

Cole prospered in Rome. In 1857 he increased the size of his lot on Liberty Street through the purchase of another parcel of land from John Stryker.²⁸ Cole paid \$500 for the strip, which was thirty feet wide and adjoined Cole's original parcel on the east. While increasing the frontage of Cole's property to 75 feet, this conveyance consequently, of course, reduced the Strykers' frontage by 30 feet. In 1860 Cole's real estate holdings were valued at \$10,000 and his personal estate at \$700.²⁹ At that time he and his wife resided in the house alone, except for one servant.³⁰

About this time, Dr. Willey J. P. Kingsley lived further west on Liberty Street, near James.³¹ In January, 1861, Cole and his wife, Emma, sold the premises to Kingsley for \$4000.³² During the 1850's Cole had purchased more land from Stryker and moved southwest to East Dominick Street at the corner of Bouck Street.³³

Many architectural features of the existing house, such as the mansard roof with dormers, the bracketed cornice, the entranceway and the interior trim, are typical of dwellings constructed in the late 1860's and early 1870's. Various records, as well as physical evidence, suggest that the Kingsleys occupied the Cole house for several years and about 1870 heavily remodeled and added to the original building.

By comparing later maps with the 1851 map which indicated the Cole house, it is evident that the main block of the Kingsley house is identical in proportion and siting to the Cole house. Furthermore, as the Cole house was constructed of brick, it would have been costly and difficult to demolish. It is also notable that none of the secondary sources suggest that Kingsley built the house.

Several aspects of the house as it now stands suggest that it was remodeled. The main block of the house is stuccoed and coursed. The exterior walls of other sections of the house are of exposed brick with brick or stone foundations. If an entirely new house had been erected by a man of Kingsley's financial posture, it would seem likely that building materials would have been used consistently throughout the house.

Certain interior features also suggest remodeling rather than re-building. Victorian dwellings were typically designed with double parlors, but the Kingsley house has only a single parlor. The front entrance doorway is not centered in the hallway space, but butts against the west wall of the hall. The placement of the fireplace in the room west of the hall also suggests a remodeled house, as do the changes in level between the central block and the rear section on the second floor, and the long hallways of the rear section.

In December, 1860, Kingsley at age 36 had married Georgeanna M. Vogel, 23, daughter of the pastor of the Baptist church in Rome.³⁴ In January, 1861, he purchased the Cole property, which in that year was valued at \$2500.³⁵ In 1868 and 1869, the valuation was dropped to \$2300.³⁶

Kingsley's medical practice grew rapidly, and his fame as a cancer specialist spread. By 1870 his real estate was valued at \$50,000 and his personal estate at an additional \$20,000.³⁷ His first son had died when only two years old, but two more boys were born in 1865 and 1867.

In May, 1871, Kingsley purchased a forty-five foot strip of land adjoining his property on the west from builder Daniel B. Prince.³⁸ Through this purchase Kingsley increased the frontage of his property to 120 feet and at the same time acquired the Prince house, which he moved to the corner of Steuben and East Park Streets and remodeled and enlarged into a cancer hospital.³⁹ The original part of the house was located very near the west property line; with the annexation of the Prince lot Kingsley was able to add the west wing to the main block of the house.

In the summer of 1872 the tax valuation of the property was raised sharply to \$5000, indicating the extent of the remodeling.⁴⁰ The mansard roof was added and the interior trim "modernized." The west wing, which presumably housed a library, and a wing to the rear were added. Under the mansard roof is a single, large space, which has been referred to as a ballroom, but from the simple wall and ceiling coverings of vertical and horizontal boarding is more

suggestive of a children's playroom. These changes to the house are confirmed by the 1873 view of Rome.⁴¹

In 1876 Kingsley reportedly traveled to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, where he purchased a statue of a boy and girl holding an umbrella, which for many years graced the lawn of his house.⁴² The two urns flanking the front entrance appear to date from the same period.

Indicated on the circa 1878 view of the city is the playhouse with a mansard roof, which today is located on the grounds of the Stryker house (see HABS photocopy). Originally, the playhouse was situated southeast of the house, midway between the rear of the house and the outbuildings. The playhouse, which has an interior stairway leading up to the second story where there are built-in display cases, was reportedly used by the Kingsley boys for their rock collections and aquariums.⁴³ Later the building was moved east to the Stryker property and was used by the Harrington children, who equipped it with a heating stove. The oval concrete pool at the northeast corner of the lot may be indicative also of Kingsley boys' interest in marine life.

By 1878 the eastern section of the extensive rear outbuildings had been erected. The outbuilding further west was probably built by 1891, for its west facade ends near what was the west property line before that time. Kingsley had kept a large number of horses, and the extent of the outbuildings may be indicative of this interest.

In June, 1891, Kingsley, then 67 years old, conveyed the property to his wife, Georgeanna.⁴⁴ In September of the same year she purchased another strip of land adjacent to the house on the west.⁴⁵ The parcel, for which Mrs. Kingsley paid \$2500, was 22 feet wide. Located at the rear of that parcel was a brick building which the former owner was permitted to occupy until the following spring, when he was to remove it.⁴⁶

Like many of his neighbors, Kingsley had studied in the neighboring community of Whitestown, where he attended the Whitestown Seminary.⁴⁷ He studied medicine with two Utica physicians before entering the Geneva Medical College. In 1855 he was granted his M.D. degree from New York Medical College and began practicing in Utica, but moved his practice to Rome in 1856. In 1858 he placed an advertisement in a Rome newspaper, indicating that he was a "Physician, Homeopathic Occulist, and Surgeon."⁴⁸ At this time he specialized in the surgery and treatment of the eye. His early years were spent in a general medical practice, but in later years he concentrated on the treatment of cancer.

In addition to his extensive medical practice, Kingsley was involved in various financial and civic ventures in Rome. At the time of his death he was the largest single taxpayer in the city; among his holdings were several large commercial buildings along Dominick and James Streets. Kingsley had been president of the Bank of Rome, the Farmers National Bank, the Rome Iron Works, and the Rome Brass and

Copper Company, and served as director of the Rome Locomotive Works. He was one of the incorporators of the Central New York Institution for Deaf-Mutes and served as its president. He was also president of the Rome Cemetery Association and of the Jervis Library Association and aided the Y.M.C.A. and the Rome Hospital.

Unlike his Democratic neighbors John Stryker, Henry Foster, and George Barnard, Kingsley was a staunch Republican.⁴⁹ In 1895 he began a four year term as mayor of the city of Rome, and was very conscientious about the responsibilities of his office. During his term as mayor he had brick paving laid in front of a commercial building which he owned on West Dominick Street, thus introducing the first modern street paving in the city.

In 1890 the Kingsley's eldest son, George, died in Boston from diphtheria, shortly after receiving his medical degree from Harvard Medical College. In his memory, the Kingsleys erected the Kingsley Memorial Chapel in the Rome Cemetery and equipped the new gymnasium at Yale University, where George had studied as an undergraduate.

Willey J. Kingsley was the only son who survived. Willey had attended Yale and the Harvard Medical School with his brother, but returned to Rome to practice medicine with his father. Even more than his father, Willey J. Kingsley was involved with business enterprises and soon abandoned his medical practice to concentrate on his other interests. In 1915 he was unabashedly listed in the census records as a "capitalist,"⁵⁰ a rather apt description as he was a multi-millionaire at his death.

Willey J. Kingsley was president of the Rome Manufacturing Company from 1892 to 1919 and headed the Rome Brass and Copper Company from 1908 to 1919. He also served as president of the Rome Metal Company, the Rome Tube Company, the Rome Locomotive Works, the Rome Turney Radiator Company, and the First New York Beet Sugar Company.

In 1908 Willey J. purchased the former Huntingon property on Dominick Street between the Barnard and Martin houses.⁵¹ Here he constructed a tennis court; he had been a championship tennis player while at Harvard. Desirous of climate-controlled facilities, he enclosed the court with a concrete block building, in which he later established the Rome Sporting Goods Manufacturing Company. The building later housed the state armory and the Rome Historical Society.

Kingsley owned considerable real estate in North Carolina, Kansas, and Palm Beach, Florida. He was a large stockholder of the Revere Copper and Brass Company and of the U. S. Steel Company. He was described as a "wealthy clubman well known in Paris, London, New York and Palm Beach . . ."⁵² He belonged to the Racquet and Tennis Club of New York and the Royal Yacht Club of London.

From 1895 to 1908 he was chairman of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners and was particularly concerned with the latest and best methods of firefighting. He was the donor of a camp site to the local

Boy Scout council and a trustee of the Jervis Library. In his will he provided that if his wife did not survive him (which she did), a portion of his estate be used to "lay out and expend on a System of Parks of Parkways" for Rome.⁵³

Willey J.'s father, W. J. P. Kingsley had died in 1912, at the age of 83. Seven years later his wife, Georgeanna, died, aged 74. Mrs. Kingsley was instrumental in placing a marker on the site of Fort Bull and in arranging for the flag staff and model of Fort Stanwix to be placed on the grounds of the Rome Club.⁵⁴ Mrs. Kingsley bequeathed all of her real estate, including the Liberty Street home, to her son, Willey.

In 1918 Willey J., then 52 years old, married Lucy K. Stevens, of Rome, and began construction on a new house, which stood at 136 Turin Street in Rome until it was demolished in 1969.

In November, 1920, Willey and Lucy Kingsley donated the old Kingsley home on Liberty Street to the Woman's General Study Club of Rome for use as the Club's headquarters.⁵⁵ The club, now known as the Woman's Community Center of Rome, was formed during World War I and assumed functions similar to those of a Y.W.C.A. Kingsley also bequeathed funds to the organization.

By 1930 one of the outbuildings at the rear of the property was being used as a gymnasium and in the other was a swimming pool.⁵⁶ Also erected by this time was the southernmost rear addition.

In February, 1970, the club sold the property to the Rome Urban Renewal Agency and is now engaged in a joint fund drive with the local Y.M.C.A. to raise money for a new building to serve both organizations.

FOOTNOTES

¹Samuel W. Durant, History of Oneida County, New York (Philadelphia: Evert & Fariss, 1878), p. 375.

²Ibid.

³William Weston, "Map of Lynchville," 1796.

⁴The existing block and lot numbers have been changed from the original numbers. The block on which Fort Stanwix stood was originally block twelve, but is now block seven. The present parcel numbers do not correspond to the original lot numbers. In tracing the history of the block over a period of about 175 years, it was necessary to refer to these original lot numbers, which are shown on the 1874 map.

⁵"Journal of Rev. John Taylor's Missionary Tour through the Mohawk & Black River Countries in 1802," The Documentary History of the State of New-York (Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1850), III, p. 1138.

⁶Oneida County Deeds, Book 48, p. 110.

⁷Ibid., Book 70, p. 259.

⁸This conveyance does not appear to be included in the indexes of the Oneida County land records.

⁹Oneida County Deeds, Book 85, p. 333.

¹⁰Oneida County Mortgages, Book 37, p. 107.

¹¹Ibid., Book 41, p. 304.

¹²Oneida County Deeds, Book 129, p. 463.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Oneida County Mortgages, Book 61, p. 209.

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Seventh Census (1850), New York, Vol. 61, Oneida County, p. 37.

¹⁷New York State Census (1855), Oneida County, p. 114.

¹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹Map of Rome Oneida County New York (Philadelphia: Henry Hart, 1851).

²⁰New York State Census (1855), Oneida County, p. 114.

²¹Rome Directory, 1857.

²²Ibid.

²³Seventh Census (1850), New York, Vol. 61, Oneida County, p. 37.

²⁴Eighth Census (1860), New York, Vol. 64, Oneida County, p. 401.

²⁵Daniel E. Wager, Our City and Its People, a Descriptive Work on the City of Rome New York (Boston: The Boston History Company, 1896), p. 130.

²⁶Eighth Census (1860), New York, Vol. 64, Oneida County, p. 401.

²⁷Rome Sentinel, September 10, 1867.

²⁸Oneida County Deeds, Book 203, p. 2.

²⁹Eighth Census (1860), New York, Vol. 64, Oneida County, p. 413.

³⁰Ibid.

- ³¹Rome Directory, 1857.
- ³²Oneida County Deeds, Book 237, p. 266.
- ³³Rome Directory, 1862-63.
- ³⁴Wager, pt. 2, p. 35.
- ³⁵Rome Assessment Rolls, 1861.
- ³⁶Ibid., 1868, 1869.
- ³⁷Ninth Census (1870), New York, Vol. 77, Oneida County, p. 30.
- ³⁸Oneida County Deeds, Book 490, p. 106.
- ³⁹"Death of D. B. Prince," Rome Daily Sentinel, June 14, 1894.
- ⁴⁰Rome Assessment Rolls, 1872. The assessment figure rose in 1870 from \$2300 to \$3300, but this may have been a mistake made in transcribing the records, for in 1871 the house was valued at \$2000 and the Prince house at \$600.
- ⁴¹Birds Eye View of Rome 1873 Oneida County, New York.
- ⁴²"Woman's Club Site Former Home of Dr. Kingsley, Cancer Specialist," newspaper clipping apparently from the Rome Sentinel, n.d., in files of Rome Historical Society.
- ⁴³Interview with Mrs. Charlotte Crill, May 28, 1970.
- ⁴⁴Oneida County Deeds, Book 490, p. 106.
- ⁴⁵Ibid., Book 488, p. 503.
- ⁴⁶Ibid.
- ⁴⁷Wager, pt. 2, p. 35.
- ⁴⁸Rome Sentinel, July 7, 1858.
- ⁴⁹"Dr. Kingsley Dead," Rome Daily Sentinel, January 26, 1912.
- ⁵⁰New York State Census (1915), Oneida County, Vol. 363, p. 110.
- ⁵¹Oneida County Deeds, Book 646, p. 156.
- ⁵²"Dr. W. L. Kingsley Found Dead by Gunshot at His Winter Home in Florida," Rome Daily Sentinel, April 6, 1931.
- ⁵³Oneida County Wills, Book 78, p. 353.
- ⁵⁴"Woman's Club Site Former Home of Dr. Kingsley, Cancer Specialist."

⁵⁵Oneida County Deeds, Book 783, p. 475.

⁵⁶Insurance Map of Rome Including Stanwix Village and Ridge Mills
(New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1930), n.p.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: Main block is two stories plus another full story under the mansard roof. Rest of building is two stories.
2. Number of bays: North (front) and side facades of main block are all three bays wide. North side of west wing is also three bays wide.
3. Over-all dimensions: The north facade of the main block measures about 38 feet; west wing extends west about 15 feet. From front to rear including all additions to the building, the structure measures about 95 feet.
4. Layout, shape: To the central block of house which is rectangular in plan have been added a west wing and a rear wing, making the over-all plan of the building irregular.
5. Foundations: Foundations of main block are covered with stucco and coursed; rear wing has brick foundations.
6. Wall construction, finish, and color: Main block of house has masonry walls covered with stucco and has stucco quoins. Rear and west wings are of brick laid up in running bond. The entire building is painted red.
7. Porches: Bracketed entrance porch in center bay of north facade. The wooden porch on the north side of the library (west) wing is now enclosed, as is a porch south of the central block.
8. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Entrance door has large circular panel with glass, two arched vertical panels below, and in the lowest section a horizontal oval panel.
 - b. Windows: Double-hung two-over-two light sash.
9. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Main block of house has mansard roof covered with gray slate shingles. Rest of house has flat roofs.

- b. Cornice: Bracketed wooden cornice.
- c. Dormers: Gabled dormers have triangular and elliptical pediments, slate cheeks.

B. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: First floor: Double doors open off east side of hallway in central part of north portion of house leading to a parlor. On the west side of this hallway is one large room which is divided about midway by an archway running east and west and supported on consoles. The north portion of the west wall of this room is formed by a three-sided bay window. On the south wall of the room is a doorway which opens to a room with its lengthwise axis running east and west and projecting beyond the exterior west walls of the earlier part of the house. Opening off the south of this room is a long narrow hallway running east and west, off of which several rooms open. At the east end of this hallway and directly south of the parlor is a large room. The east side of this room is formed by a three-sided bay window. The south side of the room opens onto a glass-enclosed porch. On the north portion of the west wall a door opens to a walk-in closet which has another door to the east wall of the office. Opening off the south wall of the narrow hall is a bathroom and further west a room now, and perhaps originally, used as a kitchen. A pantry opens off the east wall of the kitchen. At the east corner of the south wall of the kitchen is a doorway and three steps that lead down to an adjoining room. On the east portion of the north wall of this room is a back stairway leading to the second floor and at the west corner of the north wall a stairway leads to the basement. Under this first stairway is a toilet room. On the east wall of this room a doorway leads to a small room or closet, which was locked. On the south wall of this room a door leads to another room at the extreme rear of the house.

Second floor: The hallway extends to the north wall of the house and the north wall is formed by a three-sided bay window which forms a protective stoop over the front entrance and is separated from the rest of the hall by an archway spanning the east and west hall walls. Opening off the west hall wall are two bedrooms. The northwest bedroom has a bay window on the west wall, over a similar window on the first floor; on the west side of the south wall is a closet door. The southwest bedroom was locked. Opening off the east hall wall are the northeast bedroom and a bathroom. A few steps at the southeast corner of the central hall lead up to a back hallway, which is Z-shaped in plan. The first leg of this hall runs north and south. Opening off the east wall of this is a bedroom located just south

of the northeast bedroom and bathroom. The east wall of this bedroom is a three-sided bay window like the one in the dining room directly below. In this section of the hall, opening off the west wall, is a large storage closet, the corner of which is rounded. The next section of this hall runs east and west. Opening off the north wall of the hall and located just west of the storage closet is a bathroom. On the west wall is a doorway to a bedroom. On the south wall of this hallway was a door that was locked. Further west on the south wall was the last leg of this Z-shaped hall. On the west wall of this hall were two locked doors, which presumably led to small closets. Three steps at the south end of this hall led to a large room. Along the north wall of this room was the flight of stairs leading up from the first floor. There is a locked room or closet in the southeast corner of this room; further south was another large room.

Third floor: There is a large undivided space under the mansard roof, evidently used as a playroom.

2. Stairway: Curved single flight of stairs rises to second floor on west wall of entrance hall. Newel post and turned balusters, as well as stair treads, are of dark wood, varnished. Arched panels and ornamental brackets decorate the space between the stringer and the baseboard.
3. Flooring: Wall and ceiling finish, doorways and doors, decorative features, fireplaces: Entrance hall: Modern tile floor, plaster walls painted; plaster ceiling with ornate pierced Victorian plaster molding. Doors opening off hallway are composed of two rows of vertical panels.

Room west of entrance hall: Tile flooring, plaster walls, plaster ceiling with moulded cornice; arch spanning east and west walls, visually dividing area into two spaces; marble mantelpiece on south wall.

Office: Tile floor, plaster walls, plaster ceiling without cornice and possibly a new, lowered ceiling; built-in bookcases extend along south wall of room.

Back hall: Linoleum floor, wooden wainscoting with plaster walls above, plaster ceiling.

Dining Room: Modern tile floor, plaster wall with dark wooden chair rail, new ceiling appears to have been lowered, ceiling pendants at corners of room; wooden brackets with incised flower designs at bay window.

Enclosed porch: Modern tile floor, wooden ceiling.

Kitchen: Modern tile floor, wooden wainscoating, plaster above, built-in cupboard in northeast corner of room.

Room south of kitchen: Tile floor, plasterboard ceiling, with plaster above on east and west walls, south wall covered with plywood.

Rear room: Modern tile floor, plasterboard walls and ceiling.

Parlor: Inlaid parquet floor; plaster walls, plaster ceiling with ornate cornice pierced and cast with grape and acanthus leaf design; wooden panels under windows; along west wall, double doors open at north end and a single door at south end from entrance hall; on south wall a large elaborate marble mantelpiece with arched opening and cartouche with cameo-like silhouette; large overmantel mirror.

Second floor: Northwest bedroom: Parquet floor; plaster walls with picture molding about 14 inches below ceiling.

Northeast bedroom: Hardwood floor, plaster walls and ceiling, picture molding about 14 inches below ceiling juncture.

Southeast bedroom: Hardwood floor, plaster ceiling and walls, picture molding about 14 inches below ceiling.

Room at west end of back hall: Hardwood floors, plaster walls and ceiling, picture molding.

Room at extreme rear of house: Hardwood floor, fibre-board walls and ceilings. Adjoining this room on the north is another room with marble counter and kitchen-type sink, vertical and horizontal boarded walls, linoleum floor, plasterboard walls.

Third floor: Playroom or ballroom: Hardwood floor, horizontally boarded walls and ceiling above vertical wainscoating.

4. Lighting: Electrical.

C. Site and Surroundings:

1. Orientation: Front facade faces north onto Liberty Street.
2. Outbuildings: Two large two-story brick outbuildings painted red are located along the south property line facing onto Willett Street. These are now used for a gymnasium and a swimming pool.

3. Landscaping: The grounds are well landscaped, with many large shrubs and trees on the property. At the main entrance are two cast iron urns. In the northwest corner of the lot is a concrete fish pond banked with evergreens.

VIRGIL DRAPER HOUSE

Location: 121 East Dominick Street, Rome, Oneida County, New York.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The land on which the city of Rome is now located was included in the Oriskany Patent, which was granted to Thomas Weston and others about 1705. In 1785 the patent was surveyed and divided into allotments. Previous to that time a parcel located to the south and west of the remains of Fort Stanwix had been surveyed and reserved for sale at an auction, in order to pay for the expense of surveying the remainder of the patent. This parcel was subsequently termed the "Expense Lot."

On January 9, 1786, a lottery was held to distribute the other parcels of the patent to various parties. The 460 acre portion which included Fort Stanwix was acquired by William Livingston and Alida Hoffman.¹

In March, 1786, Dominick Lynch, a New York City merchant, purchased the "Expense Lot" at auction, and in July of the same year acquired the portion of the patent which had been owned jointly by Livingston and Hoffman. Through the purchase of contiguous parcels, Lynch increased his holdings in the area to about 2000 acres by 1800.²

Within the next decade William Weston, an English engineer, surveyed Lynch's property and in 1796 drew a map indicating the village plan.³ Streets were arranged in a simple grid pattern, forming blocks measuring 400 by 600 feet, with the lengthwise axis running east to west.⁴ The blocks were sub-divided into building lots, each measuring 66 feet wide and 200 feet deep. Access to the interior of the blocks was provided by various alley arrangements. Lynch called the future city Lynchville, and named the two central thoroughfares after himself and his son, James.

Lynch had chosen the site of his proposed settlement carefully and wisely. From earliest times this area of central New York State had been well-served by inland water routes. A portage route, known as the "Oneida Carrying Place," formed a strategic land connection between Wood Creek, which was the beginning of the water route to the Great Lakes, and the Mohawk River, which flowed into the Hudson River and eventually into the Atlantic. Fort Stanwix was one of several defensive structures built during the eighteenth century to protect this transportation route. This connection was greatly improved in 1797 when the Western Inland Lock Navigation Company opened a canal which linked the Mohawk with Wood Creek. A visitor to Rome in 1802 noted that "this water communication is of incalculable benefit to this part of the world. Produce may be sent both ways . . ."⁵

The ruins of Fort Stanwix stood on what was designated on Weston's map as the eastern part of block twelve. It was situated on what are now lots five through fourteen and possibly also on parts of lots four and fifteen. During the next century this block was to play a crucial role in the transformation of the village of Lynchville into the city of Rome.

The southeast bastion of the fort was the first to be leveled and the land transformed into a building lot. On this site was erected "a large square frame dwelling,"⁶ where Dominick Lynch resided when in Rome and where his son, James, also lived.

In the midsummer of 1825 the Lynch building burned, and in the following April, Virgil Draper purchased the premises, then known as lots eight and nine.⁷

Like his neighbors John Stryker and Wheeler Barnes, Draper had moved to Whitestown in the early nineteenth century to live with relatives. Arriving in Whitestown in 1806 at the age of 17, Draper was employed in the recently established cotton mills owned by his uncle, Dr. Seth Capron, and by Newton Mann.⁸ In 1822 Draper moved to Rome and supervised for two years a mill owned by Dominick Lynch. After establishing a cotton mill in Stittville and residing there for a few years, Draper returned to Rome, where he purchased Lynch's water-power and mill property at what was later called Factory Village and "engaged in the manufacture of cotton goods on an extensive scale."⁹

At this time Draper also acquired the lots on which the Lynch dwelling had stood. Here he erected a frame residence with a full two-story pedimented portico, in the Greek Revival style that was characteristic of the architecture in the towns along the Erie Canal.

The 1826 deed for the lots stated that "the buildings and materials now thereon"¹⁰ were included in the conveyance. According to tradition, a number of doors with brass hardware were salvaged from the Lynch house and installed in the Draper house. According to a relative of Draper who still lives in Rome, the two central columns were carved on the front yard of the house, but proved to be so costly that the other two columns were fashioned more simply.¹¹

Draper had paid \$700 for the two lots, which together measured 132 feet along Dominick Street. In August, 1826, Draper sold the western 33 feet of lot eight to Luther and Jeptha Matteson of Rome.¹² Patrick Martin, who owned a livery, later occupied a house on the site.

In 1840 Draper retired from the cotton mill business. He owned a considerable amount of real estate in Rome and was said to have acquired "an ample fortune."¹³ In 1860 he listed his occupation as "gentleman."¹⁴ Draper was a founder of the Fort Stanwix Bank and helped to establish the Rome Citizen, a Whig newspaper.¹⁵ With his family he attended the Presbyterian Church. At his death in 1867 the Citizen published the following notice:

Death of Virgil Draper.----

Another of the old landmarks has disappeared. VIRGIL DRAPER died at his residence on Saturday last, after a brief illness, at the age of 78. He had been a resident of the county for some 60 years, and for the past forty-five years a resident of this village. He was an active and successful business man in his day, but for many years partly owing to age and ill health, he had retired from active business pursuits. His funeral was attended on Tuesday last.¹⁶

Draper bequeathed "the use and enjoyment" of his real estate to his wife, Eliza.¹⁷ In 1868, when she was 76 years old, the house passed to one of her three daughters, Mary.¹⁸ Mary's first husband, Henry S. Will, had died in 1854, and she later married Henry K. White, who, as a partner in the dry goods firm of Spencer & White, was a well-known Rome merchant.

Meanwhile, Draper had constructed another house at the rear of his lot, facing onto Spring Street. This building is shown in an 1845 view of the city and may have been built as early as 1842, when Draper was taxed for "2 Houses & Lots."¹⁹ In 1868 this house became the property of another of Draper's daughters, Julia Kinney, who was a widow.²⁰

In 1917 Mary White conveyed the Draper house to her son, Harry Draper White.²¹ A physician, White had his medical office on the property for many years. In 1925 White and his wife, Marion, sold the property to the Henry P. Smith Post, No. 24, of the American Legion.²² In January, 1970, it was purchased by the Rome Urban Renewal Agency.

FOOTNOTES

¹Samuel W. Durant, History of Oneida County, New York (Philadelphia: Evert & Fariss, 1878), p. 375.

²Ibid.

³William Weston, "Map of Lynchville," 1796.

⁴The existing block and lot numbers have been changed from the original numbers. The block on which Fort Stanwix stood was originally block twelve, but is now block seven. The present parcel numbers do not correspond to the original lot numbers. In tracing the history of the block over a period of about 175 years, it was necessary to refer to these original lot numbers, which are shown on the 1874 map.

⁵"Journal of Rev. John Taylor's Missionary Tour through the Mohawk & Black River Countries in 1802," The Documentary History of the State of New-York (Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1850), III, p. 1138.

⁶Daniel E. Wager, Our City and Its People, A Descriptive Work on the City of Rome New York (Boston: The Boston History Company, 1896), p. 52.

⁷Oneida County Deeds, Book 41, p. 465.

⁸Daniel E. Wager, ed., Our County and Its People, A Descriptive Work on Oneida County, New York (Boston: The Boston History Co., 1896), p. 109.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Oneida County Deeds, Book 41, p. 465.

¹¹Interview with Mrs. H. D. White, wife of Draper's grandson, May 29, 1970.

¹²Oneida County Deeds, Book 55, p. 220.

¹³Wager, Our County and Its People, p. 110.

¹⁴Eighth Census (1860), New York, Vol. 64, Oneida County, p. 399.

¹⁵Wager, Our County and Its People, p. 110.

¹⁶Rome Citizen, April 12, 1867.

¹⁷Oneida County Deeds, Book 281, p. 212.

¹⁸Ibid., Book 288, p. 403.

¹⁹Rome Assessment Rolls, 1842.

²⁰Oneida County Deeds, Book 288, p. 402.

²¹Ibid., Book 744, p. 109.

²²Ibid., Book 853, p. 226.

EMPIRE HOUSE

Location: 111-113 East Dominick Street, Rome, Oneida County,
New York.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

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The Empire House as it now stands consists of two major sections, a central three-story block and a two story wing to the east. At various times several extensions have been added to the rear of these connected structures. According to local tradition, the small east wing was built in the late eighteenth century and is reputedly the oldest building standing in Rome. The central three-story block assumed its present form about 1883-84.

In 1796 Dominick Lynch, the founder of Rome, leased this property to John Barnard.⁶ In the early days of Lynchville, as the settlement was then called, Lynch did not convey titles to land through deeds but instead leased property.

Within the next three years ownership of the property had passed to James Gould, for on May 1, 1799, Gould sold the property to John Barnard for £800, subject to payments of £198.12 within one month and of £100 by March 14, 1800.⁷ Additional interest on £200 was also to be paid by the latter date.⁸ Barnard became a large land owner in the settlement and erected many of the village's early buildings.⁹ The land conveyed in this transaction consisted of lot four plus twenty-six feet off of the eastern part of lot three, which together formed a parcel measuring 92 feet wide along Dominick Street and Stone Alley and 200 feet deep. The size of the parcel at that time was apparently the same as it was in 1796, and the dimensions of the plot have remained the same up to the present time.

Through a deed dated August 12, 1799, Barnard transferred to Caleb Putnam a mortgage held on the property to Gould.¹⁰ This mortgage may be what was referred to as the £200 on which Barnard was to pay the interest,¹¹ as described above. Presumably this transaction was related to Barnard's other real estate activities during that same year when he was forced to make an assignment of some other property to Putnam.¹² By August of 1799 a building was standing on the property for the conveyance of that date mentioned "the house Lot with the Dwelling House thereon . . ."¹³

According to local tradition the building referred to as "the Dwelling House" was used as a tavern. Daniel Wager, local chronicler of Rome's early history, wrote that the building was in fact built as a tavern and that it was kept by Cicero Gould in 1799.¹⁴ Another account, which was written in 1878 and attempted to describe Rome as it had appeared in 1810, included the following information:

Prior to 1800 part of the house now called the Empire House . . . was erected on that site by Cicero Gould as a tavern. It was used as such for many years, and old persons have informed us they

remembered the time when the sheds and fence extended across the street at that point.¹⁵

On June 26, 1800, Putnam relinquished all of his interest in the mortgaged premises,¹⁶ and on the following day it was recorded that the property had been sold to George Huntington.¹⁷

Huntington owned the western portion of lot three, on which a dwelling house had been erected.¹⁸ It is interesting to note an earlier business relationship between Huntington and Barnard. In the spring of 1793 Barnard had kept a tavern just northeast of the court house. About this time Huntington arrived in Rome and established in Barnard's tavern the first store in the village.¹⁹ Both Barnard and Huntington are included among the early settlers and prominent men in Rome prior to 1800.²⁰ In 1800 Barnard headed a household of twelve persons.²¹

Tradition also relates that the building was later owned by a man named Olmstead,²² although his ownership does not appear to be included in the county land records. Reportedly, while Olmstead occupied the building, The First Religious Society of Rome held services there.²³ In 1807 the congregational council, whose task it was to ratify the first minister's credentials, met at Olmstead's and marched to the yet unfinished church building where the new minister was installed.²⁴

In 1809, Wheeler Barnes purchased the property from Lemeul Storrs, of Middletown, Connecticut.²⁵ Storrs, along with Cicero Gould, was listed as "among the prominent men"²⁶ living in Rome prior to 1800, but within the next few years he had moved to Connecticut. Barnes paid \$1150 for the property,²⁷ which was subject to a yearly ground rent of \$9.94 payable to Storrs.²⁸ Barnes immediately mortgaged the property to Storrs for \$1150, payable in six equal annual payments.²⁹ Twelve years later, in 1821, Barnes mortgaged the property to Dominick Lynch.³⁰ Payments on this mortgage were to be made over a period of twenty years with the interest rate set at five per cent. A later conveyance indicated that Barnes had met the interest payments but had not reduced the amount of the principal.³¹

Barnes owned the land until 1830, a period of twenty-one years. When he had purchased it in 1809, he was about 27 years old and had resided in Rome approximately three years. Barnes apparently resided in the former tavern³² and "had his law office in a small frame building which stood near the street, in the southeast corner of the yard."³³ The existence and location of this building is shown on a map drawn in 1834,³⁴ which indicates that it was a small structure with its gable to the street. William Curtis Noyes, who was later to become the well-known New York attorney, practiced law with Barnes. In 1825 when the Marquis de Lafayette visited Rome, he was greeted at the American Hotel by Barnes, who by then had established a reputation as a prominent lawyer of the city.³⁵ While Barnes owned this property he was elected to two terms as supervisor of the town of Rome, and to four terms as trustee of Rome village. In 1816 Barnes was elected to a term in the state assembly.³⁶

In July, 1828, Barnes purchased lots five and six which adjoined lot four on the east. On lots five and six Barnes erected a Federal style brick house, a portion of which is now part of the Rome Club. Two years later, when the new house was apparently completed, Barnes and his wife, Emma, sold lots three and four to George Brown, of Rome, for \$1600, subject to Barnes' \$300 mortgage and the interest thereon.³⁷

Like Barnes, Brown was active in local politics, having served as supervisor of the town from 1827³⁸ through 1830.³⁹ Brown resided in the building,⁴⁰ and reputedly enlarged it⁴¹ before he sold it in 1841. Any improvements made by Brown were evidently carried out between 1834 and 1841, for the map drawn in 1834 does not suggest any additions.

In any case, extensive improvements had been made to the building by 1851, when it was owned by Henry A. Foster, who had purchased the land in September, 1847.⁴² Between 1841 and 1847 the property had passed through several hands. In the fall of 1841 Brown had been forced to convey the titles to this property and to other holdings for \$1.00 to Alva Mudge (who had just recently purchased the Barnes house to the east), Jessie Armstrong, and George Patten.⁴³ Brown had been forced to sell this real estate because of his debts to various persons, but he evidently had been able to retain some property, for the tax assessment rolls of 1842 indicate that he was assessed for a "H/ouse/ Store & Lots," valued at \$3000.⁴⁴

By 1847 the property had passed to Paschal B. Smith and his wife, of Cincinnati,⁴⁵ for in September of that year it was purchased by Foster for \$3000. A map published in 1851,⁴⁶ indicates a building joined onto the older building in a fashion very similar to the way the main block of the hotel is now connected to the old wing. A view published in 1873⁴⁷ indicates that that building was a two-story structure with a gabled roof and was five bays wide along Dominick Street. The building appeared to be residential in character.

That structure was rebuilt about 1883 into the hotel building which stands on the site today. Much of the fabric of the house was destroyed, although a few elements, such as the pilasters and a door in the hotel hallway may be original to the earlier structure. In 1857 this building was termed "the house of H. A. Foster" and the house was carefully differentiated from the "wing east of the house."⁴⁸ By 1851 the wing on the rear (north) side of the east wing had also been erected.

Foster occupied this building as his home. Census records from 1850 indicate that Foster's son and daughter, her husband, Derrick Boardman, and a granddaughter also lived in the house with Foster and his wife.⁴⁹ Four women, natives of Ireland and Wales and all in their twenties, also resided there, presumably as servants but possibly as boarders.

Born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1800, Foster arrived in Rome in 1819, after having studied law in Cazenovia, Onondaga Hill, and Oswego. In Rome he continued his studies with James Sherman, whose daughter, Martha, became Foster's wife in 1824. Admitted to the bar in the court

of common pleas in 1822, he was appointed county surrogate in 1827, thus beginning many years of public office. He served in several local elective offices, as state senator, as Congressman and as U. S. senator. In 1863 he was elected Supreme Court judge in the fifth judicial district.

Foster was a prime mover in changing the route of the Erie Canal from its early route through the Rome Swamp to its course nearer the village and in arranging for the New York Central Railroad line to pass through Rome.⁵⁰ He was also a promoter of the Utica and Syracuse Railroad. He served as president of the Bank of Rome and for many years as president of the Board of Trustees of Hamilton College. At his death in 1889, the Rome Sentinel noted that Foster

was an intellectual giant among his fellows. He was a prominent figure in politics of state and nation for many years, and his name was power to his party . . . In the death of Judge Foster one of the most illustrious citizens of New York has passed away.⁵¹

In 1861 his house and lot were valued at \$1700,⁵² and in August of that year the house was sold.⁵³ Meanwhile, at some time between 1860⁵⁴ and 1862 Miss Mary J. Whittemore, a native of New Hampshire, had arrived in Rome and established a school. In 1862 she and Miss A. F. Whittemore operated the "Stanwix Seminary for young ladies," located on George Street above Thomas Street.⁵⁵

Evidently the seminary flourished, for on January 1, 1864, Mary Whittemore, then 36 years old, purchased the Foster property for \$2400⁵⁶ and used it to house the school. It is notable that at this time the land was still subject to the ground rent of \$4.94 a year. The building was used as a seminary through the rest of the decade. In the fall of 1867 and again in 1868 and 1869 Miss Whittemore advertised the institution in a Rome newspaper:

STANWIX SEMINARY.

HOME BOARDING AND DAY
SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES, ROME, ONEIDA
COUNTY, NEW YORK.

The Fall Term of this institution will commence
on WEDNESDAY, the 23d of September, 1867.

For circulars apply to
Miss M. J. WHITTEMORE
Principal, Rome, N.Y.⁵⁷

While the property was listed on the tax rolls as a seminary through 1870, the William Bowens family and another woman and her daughter also lived in the building.⁵⁸

In 1871 the description of the property was changed to a house and lot and the valuation was increased from \$1800 to \$2000, probably indi-

cating that some improvements had been made.⁵⁹ The property was indicated as a house and lot throughout the 1870's, except in 1874, when it was listed as "H/ouse/ & L/ot/ Seminary."⁶⁰

Curiously, in the fall of that same year, 1874, the "Stanwix Seminary, Day School for Young Ladies, Thomas street, Rome" was advertised in a Rome newspaper by the principal, Miss L. F. Kimball.⁶¹ The 1870 census had listed Lucilla Kimball as a 30-year-old teacher, residing in a "Boarding School."⁶² Perhaps not coincidentally she too was a native of New Hampshire.

By 1873-74 Miss Whittemore had left Rome,⁶³ and when she sold the property a decade later she resided in Nashua, New Hampshire. The establishment of a free school system in Rome during the summer of 1869 may well have affected Miss Whittemore's decision to move.

During the early 1880's the building was used as a boarding house, run by Emma Taber, wife of Henry Taber, an engineer at the Rome Iron Works.⁶⁴ During 1880 twelve boarders resided there, and in 1881 Taber advertised the boarding house in the city directory.⁶⁵ Between 1880 and 1881 the valuation of the building on the tax rolls was raised from \$3150 to \$3300.⁶⁶ A view of Rome published about 1878 indicates the appearance of the building quite clearly (see HABS photocopy).

On April 16, 1883, Miss Whittemore conveyed the property to Anthony Baynes, of Rome, for \$8800,⁶⁷ and he immediately mortgaged the property to her.⁶⁸ Tax assessment figures for the subsequent years support Wager's statement that the house was "rebuilt in its present shape" by Baynes.⁶⁹ From the 1882 valuation of \$3300 the valuation rose to \$4500 in 1883⁷⁰ and then to \$6000 in 1884.⁷¹ The building has been called the "Empire House" from the beginning of Baynes' ownership, although Baynes was engaged in various other business enterprises and did not operate the hotel personally, employing "proprietors" instead. The plan and exterior features of the Empire House have been changed very little over the years; the interior walls of the building are remarkable for their rich variety of pressed sheet metal designs. At Baynes' death in 1891, the following obituary appeared in a Rome newspaper:

Death of Anthony Baynes

Anthony Baynes died of congestion of the liver at his home on Mill street, at 12:40 A.M. to-day, aged about 48 years. The deceased always lived in this city. He was engaged in boating, in which business he prospered and accumulated considerable property. He was the owner of the Empire House in this city. He leaves his wife and a daughter, aged 12 years, also two brothers, John and William Baynes of this city.⁷²

Baynes bequeathed the Empire House, along with other property, to his daughter, Maria,⁷³ who in 1907 married John R. Harper. She retained title to the property until it was sold to the Rome Urban Renewal Agency.

After Baynes' death, the business was carried on by various parties. In 1892 the following advertisement appeared in the city directory:

EMPIRE HOUSE,
O. KNOWLTON, Proprietor.
111 East Dominick Street ROME, N.Y.
Rates, \$1.00 Per Day. Single Meals 25 Cts.
Special Rates by the Week

First-Class Barn Attached⁷⁴

During the following year the advertisements boasted that there was a telephone on the premises.⁷⁵ By 1896 and through 1899 the hotel was kept by George W. Baynes,⁷⁶ presumably a relative of the builder.

At about the turn of the century Joseph O'Brien became the proprietor and ran the hotel for many years as a family business (see HABS photocopy). An atlas of 1907 indicates that the plan of the "Empire Hotel" was essentially identical to its present plan, except for the stucco addition at the northwest corner of the building.⁷⁷ Three large outbuildings extended along the alley, and another one was located along the west property line. One of these buildings must have been the "First-Class Barn" mentioned in the advertisements.

An insurance map published in 1930 indicates that the stucco extension at the northwest corner of the building had been erected by this time.⁷⁸ At the rear of the lot were two large buildings also labeled "Hotel," but presumably this indicated only that the buildings formed part of the hotel complex, not that they contained accommodations for guests. The establishment is now operated as "Ken's Empire House."

FOOTNOTES

¹Samuel W. Durant, History of Oneida County, New York (Philadelphia: Evert & Fariss, 1878), p. 375.

²Ibid.

³William Weston, "Map of Lynchville," 1796.

⁴The existing block and lot numbers have been changed from the original numbers. The block on which Fort Stanwix stood was originally block twelve, but is now block seven. The present parcel numbers do not correspond to the original lot numbers. In tracing the history of the block over a period of about 175 years, it was necessary to refer to these original lot numbers, which are shown on the 1874 map.

⁵"Journal of Rev. John Taylor's Missionary Tour through the Mohawk & Black River Countries in 1802," The Documentary History of the State of New-York (Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1850), III, p. 1138.

⁶This lease is not indexed in the land records of Oneida County and does not appear to have been recorded. Reference to the lease does, however, appear in subsequent conveyances of the property; the earliest reference is in Oneida County Deeds, Book 51, p. 109.

⁷Oneida County Deeds, Book 7, p. 389.

⁸Ibid.

⁹Durant, p. 376.

¹⁰Oneida County Deeds, Book 7, p. 390.

¹¹Ibid., p. 389.

¹²Durant, p. 376.

¹³Oneida County Deeds, Book 7, p. 390.

¹⁴Daniel E. Wager, Our City and Its People, a Descriptive Work on the City of Rome New York (Boston: The Boston History Company, 1896), p. 53.

¹⁵Durant, p. 382.

¹⁶Oneida County Deeds, Book 7, p. 390.

¹⁷Ibid., p. 391.

¹⁸Ibid., Book 31, p. 294.

¹⁹Pomroy Jones, Annals and Recollections of Oneida County (Rome: By the author, 1851), p. 372.

²⁰Ibid.

²¹Second Census (1800), New York, Vol. 108, Oneida County, p. 382.

²²Wager, p. 53. Also The First Presbyterian Church of Rome, The First One Hundred and Fifty Years 1800-1950 (The First Presbyterian Church of Rome, 1950), p. 17. This church account indicates that he was Timothy Olmstead; the conveyance of the land to Olmstead does not appear to be indexed in the county land records.

²³First Presbyterian Church of Rome, p. 17.

²⁴Ibid., p. 22.

²⁵Oneida County Deeds, Book 31, p. 294. Lemuel Storrs may well be the same person as Samuel Starr of Storr, as the old script is difficult to read and his name has been indexed in various ways in the county land records.

²⁶Rome Directory, 1857.

²⁷Oneida County Deeds, Book 31, p. 294.

²⁸This is the only reference to a ground rent in the amount of \$9.94 in the various land records for this property. All other accounts refer to the amount of \$4.94, and the former figure may have been erroneously copied.

²⁹Oneida County Mortgages, Book 5, p. 300.

³⁰Ibid., Book 8, p. 550.

³¹Ibid., Deeds, Book 51, p. 109.

³²Whether or not he lived there during this entire period of ownership is open to speculation, although various sources agree that Barnes lived there at some point. The 1830 census (p. 386) indicated that his household included eleven persons, certainly a large number for this small building.

³³Durant, p. 378.

³⁴New York State Canal Commissioners, comp., Erie Canal From a Survey Made by Holmes Hutchinson (1834), Vol. 7, plate 53.

³⁵Daniel E. Wager, ed., Our County and Its People, A Descriptive Work on Oneida County, New York (Boston: The Boston History Co., 1896), p. 190.

³⁶D. E. Wager, Men, Events, Lawyers, Politics and Politicians of Early Rome (Utica: Oneida Historical Society, 1879), pp. 24-25.

³⁷Oneida County Deeds, Book 51, p. 109.

³⁸Rome Directory, 1857.

³⁹Wager, Our City and Its People, p. 41.

⁴⁰Oneida County Deeds, Book 103, p. 234.

⁴¹Wager, Our City and Its People, p. 53.

⁴²Oneida County Deeds, Book 133, p. 475.

⁴³Ibid., Vol. 103, p. 234.

⁴⁴Rome Assessment Rolls, 1842, n.p.

⁴⁵Oneida County Deeds, Book 133, p. 475.

⁴⁶Henry Hart, surveyor, Map of Rome Oneida County New York . . . 1851.

⁴⁷Birds Eye View of Rome 1873 Oneida County New York.

⁴⁸Rome Directory, 1857.

⁴⁹Seventh Census (1850), New York, Vol. 61, Oneida County, p. 36.

⁵⁰"Hon. Henry A. Foster, His Death Liable to Occur at Any Moment,"
The Rome Daily Sentinel, May 12, 1889.

⁵¹Ibid.

⁵²Rome Assessment Rolls, 1861.

⁵³Oneida County Deeds, Book 248, p. 101. On August 15, 1861, the Foster house, which was then mortgaged, was sold at a sherriff's sale to the Utica City Bank for \$150. Legal action against Foster and his wife and two Rome banks was brought by Jared E. Warner, President of the Utica City Bank, and Derrick Boardman, Foster's son-in-law. Further investigation should be undertaken to determine the conditions which brought about this transaction, which probably was not the result of any personal or family differences.

⁵⁴Her name does not appear to be included in the 1860 census.

⁵⁵Rome Directory 1862-63.

⁵⁶Oneida County Deeds, Book 248, p. 334.

⁵⁷The Rome Sentinel, September 10, 1867.

⁵⁸Ninth Census (1870), New York, Vol. 77, Oneida County, pp. 28-29.

⁵⁹Rome Assessment Rolls, 1871.

⁶⁰Ibid., 1874.

⁶¹Rome Sentinel, November 3, 1874. This reference was provided by Mrs. Parker Scripture, of Oriskany, N.Y.

⁶²Ninth Census (1870), New York, Vol. 77, Oneida County, p. 29.

⁶³Rome Directory 1873-74.

⁶⁴Tenth Census (1880), New York, Vol. 69, Oneida County, p. 24.

⁶⁵Rome Directory, 1881.

⁶⁶Rome Assessment Rolls, 1880, 1881.

⁶⁷Oneida County Deeds, Book 424, p. 223.

⁶⁸Ibid., Mortgages, Book 259, p. 478.

⁶⁹Wager, Our City and Its People, p. 239.

⁷⁰Rome Assessment Rolls, 1883.

⁷¹Ibid., 1884.

⁷²Rome Sentinel, April 6, 1891.

⁷³Oneida County Deeds, Book 509, p. 337.

⁷⁴Rome Directory, 1892.

⁷⁵Rome Directory, 1893.

⁷⁶Rome Directory, 1899. Also, Wager, Our City and Its People, p. 239.

⁷⁷New Century Atlas Oneida County New York (Philadelphia: Century Map Co., 1907), plate 66.

⁷⁸Insurance Map of Rome Including Stanwix Village and Ridge Mills (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1930), n.p.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Description of Exterior:

1. Central Block (1883-84 Hotel):

- a. Number of stories: Three stories.
- b. Number of bays: North and south (front) facades are five bays wide; cornice brackets suggest four bays on east and west facades, but windows are irregularly placed.
- c. Over-all dimensions: South facade measures approximately 45 feet, west facade 61 feet, including stucco addition.
- d. Layout, shape: The original part of this block is nearly square in plan. At the northeast (rear) corner of the building is a frame addition which is rectangular in plan; at the northwest corner there is a stucco addition, also rectangular in plan.
- e. Foundations: At the southeast and southwest corners of the building foundations are of cut stone, covered in part by stucco. Foundations north of this are of irregular stone.
- f. Wall construction, finish and color: Wood clapboard, painted gray with dark green trim, vertical boards at corners of building.
- g. Structural system: Wooden frame construction.
- h. Porch: One story wooden porch supported by square columns

extends across entire south (front) facade. Wooden stairs lead up to porch and extend across entire south facade. Porch is decorated with dentillated cornice, brackets, and semicircular wooden trim pierced in a manner reminiscent of spokes of a wheel. Old photographs show balustrade along porch roof line.

- i. Chimneys: One chimney at east end of east and west facades near south end. Chimneys appear to have been rebuilt.
 - j. Openings:
 - (1) Doorways and door: Paneled double doors to central hallway are recessed and have wooden, paneled reveal. Upper section of doors is arched and holds glass with a frosted design; lower section consists of rectangular, moulded panel.
 - (2) Windows: First floor windows have moulded cornices, while second and third floor windows have cornices consisting of "eared" triangular pediments supported by brackets and with a scroll-like design under the pediment. Third floor windows on north facade have two-over-two light double-hung sash; other sash have been replaced with one-over-one light double-hung sash.
 - k. Roof:
 - (1) Shape, covering: Roof appears to be flat.
 - (2) Cornice: Wooden cornice. Bays separated by double sets of brackets, quarter circle in shape and pierced like porch trim. Wooden frieze, soffit and cornice were once all painted green.
2. Wooden addition at northeast corner of central block:
- a. Number of stories: Two stories.
 - b. Number of bays: North facade is two bays wide.
 - c. Layout, shape: Rectangular in plan.
 - d. Foundations: Irregular fieldstone.
 - e. Wall construction, finish and color: Wooden clapboard, painted gray with green trim.
 - f. Structural system: Wooden frame; where some clapboards on north facade have been removed, brick nogging is visible.

- g. Bulkhead: Bulkhead is located near center of north facade, just under French doors. Stone walls stuccoed, wooden doors rotted.
 - h. Chimneys: Remains of one chimney at center of north end of gable.
 - i. Openings:
 - (1) Doors and doorway: Double French doors with three lights on first story at center of north facade.
 - (2) Windows: One-over-one light double-hung sash.
 - j. Roof:
 - (1) Shape, covering: Gabled roof with black composition covering.
 - (2) Cornice: Wooden cornice and frieze.
3. Stucco addition at northwest corner of central block:
- a. Number of stories: Two stories.
 - b. Number of bays: West facade is four bays wide; north facade has four irregularly-spaced bays.
 - c. Foundations: Cut stone.
 - d. Wall construction, finish and color: Stucco, over clay tile.
 - e. Structural system: Wooden frame.
 - f. Porches: Shed-like projection composed of vertical boarding painted green over rear entrance.
 - g. Openings:
 - (1) Door: Paneled wooden door.
 - (2) Windows: One-over-one light double-hung sash.
 - h. Roof:
 - (1) Shape: Flat roof.
 - (2) Cornice: Sheet metal cornice.

B. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plan, by floor: First floor: Central entrance hall has open well stairway leading up to second floor hotel

rooms. To west of central hall and extending north to stucco addition is the bar room. This room has a separate outside entrance located on the west side of the south wall. A closet projects along part of the south section of the west wall. North of this closet along the same wall is the bar. North of this room is a narrow hallway running north to south; two rest rooms open off of the west wall of this hall. Opening off of the east side of the central entrance hall is a smaller room. North of this room is an L-shaped room which opens onto the east side of the bar room. The northeast corner of this room is partially divided into separate spaces by two archways, at right angles to each other. One spans the space east and west, and the other spans north and south. Opening off of the east side of this room is the old wing of the building.

Second floor: Except where noted, these rooms were all locked and it was not possible to gain access. The following information on the floor plan was gained by examination of halls and by talking to the caretaker. On the west side of the central hall are two large bedrooms. At the south end of the hall is another stairway with winders that leads to the third floor. There is another large bedroom in the southeast corner. A doorway about midway along the east hall wall opens to a narrow hallway. Three smaller rooms open off the east side of this hall. At the north end of this hall, an opening leads to the second floor of the old part of the house. This hallway extends east at right angles. A bathroom, closet and several bedrooms open off of the north and west sides of this hall.

Third floor: A stairway leads up from the second floor at the middle of south wall. Fitted into the corner of the stairway is a small bathroom. A hallway extends the width of the building from the east to west exterior walls, thus dividing this floor into two banks of rooms. Five bedrooms open off the north side of this hall, and four open off the south side.

2. Stairways: Open well stairway in entrance hall has two flights, with landing between. Balusters are very slender, with very shallow profiles. Ornamental brackets are under treads along stringer. Stairway from second to third floors consists of two flights with winders between.
3. Flooring: The bar room has modern hardwood floor. Other floors are of wood boards, covered with tile or linoleum.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Entrance hall has wooden wainscoating around stairwell. Other walls are covered with pressed sheet metal. Bar room walls are covered with wooden vertical wainscoating and with horizontal boarding above; cornice and ceiling are covered with pressed sheet

metal in a diaper design. Walls in rooms on rest of first floor are plastered and painted and have a wooden chair rail; covering of pressed sheet metal forms coffered ceiling and cornice. Walls of hallway to rest rooms are covered with pressed sheet metal wainscoting and a swag and fleur de lis design in sheet metal above. On second floor, hall walls and ceiling are covered with pressed sheet metal. On third floor, walls are covered with pressed sheet metal and ceilings are plastered.

5. Doors: Various paneled wooden doors; third floor doors have glass transoms.
6. Lighting: Electrical lighting; gas lines remain in third floor rooms.
7. Heating: Stove pipe opening into closet on west wall of bar room. Building now has hot water heat.

C. Description of Exterior - East Wing:

1. Number of stories: Main portion is two stories, rear wing is one story.
2. Number of bays: South (front) facade is three bays wide; east facade is two bays wide; east facade of rear extension is two bays wide.
3. Over-all dimensions: South facade measures approximately 26 feet; east facade including rear ell measures approximately 45 feet.
4. Layout, plan: Main portion is rectangular in plan, with west facade joined to the east facade of the Empire House; wing at rear of building makes it L-shaped in plan.
5. Foundations: Foundations of main portion are of random size cut stone; foundations under east wall of rear wing are of irregular flat stones, while north and west portion foundations are of more rounded stones.
6. Walls: Clapboard, painted gray with green trim, wooden water table. There is no break in the clapboards between the main section and the rear wing. Also, this clapboarding appears to be the same as that on main block of hotel, thus suggesting that the east wing may have been re-sided when hotel was built.
7. Structural system: Wooden frame.
8. Porch: A porch once extended across the south (front) of main portion of wing; double French doors opened onto this porch from east wall of hotel. Granite blocks, apparently the foundations for the porch, are carved with variations of leaf and dart and bead and reel moldings.

9. Chimney: One chimney along east part of north wall of main section.
 10. Openings:
 - a. Doorways: Wooden paneled door in central bay of south facade.
 - b. Windows: Six-over-six light double-hung sash; simple wooden window and door cornice composed of narrow wooden strip projecting beyond wider, flat board below.
 11. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Both portions have gabled roofs, covered with asbestos paper.
 - b. Cornice: Wooden cornice.
- D. Description of Interior - East Wing:
1. Floor plan: First floor: Entry to this old section is now through a doorway from the main block of the hotel, at the south corner of the west wall of the old part. A hallway is formed by a partition running east to west. At the northeast corner of the building is an enclosed stairway to the second floor.

Second floor: There are three rooms on the second floor, opening off the stairhall, which runs east and west. Opening off the north wall of this hall is a small bedroom. At the east end of the hall a larger bedroom extends the width of the house, with two closets along the north wall under the low section of the roof. Opening off the south wall of the stairhall is another small bedroom, which is connected by a doorway on its west wall to the Empire House.
 2. Stairway: Enclosed stairway with two flights of stairs with winders is at northeast corner of building.
 3. Flooring: Wooden flooring, in some places covered with modern tile.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: First floor room has plaster walls and pressed sheet metal ceiling. Second floor hall has pressed sheet metal wall covering. Other ceilings and walls are plastered.
 5. Lighting: Electrical lighting on first floor.
- E. Site and Surroundings:
1. Orientation and general setting: South facade faces south onto Dominick Street. This wing is set back from the street and connects to the rear of the hotel.

2. Walks: Walk leads from Dominick Street up to central doorway of wing. Concrete steps lead up to wooden porch of hotel.

"LIBERTY HALL" (JOHN STRYKER HOUSE)

Location: 112 East Liberty Street, Rome, Oneida County, New York.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The land on which the city of Rome is now located was included in the Oriskany Patent, which was granted to Thomas Weston and others about 1705. In 1785 the patent was surveyed and divided into allotments. Previous to that time a parcel located to the south and west of the remains of Fort Stanwix had been surveyed and reserved for sale at an auction, in order to pay for the expense of surveying the remainder of the patent. This parcel was subsequently termed the "Expense Lot."

On January 9, 1786, a lottery was held to distribute the other parcels of the patent to various parties. The 460 acre portion which included Fort Stanwix was acquired by William Livingston and Alida Hoffman.¹

In March, 1786, Dominick Lynch, a New York City merchant, purchased the "Expense Lot" at auction, and in July of the same year acquired the portion of the patent which had been owned jointly by Livingston and Hoffman. Through the purchase of contiguous parcels, Lynch increased his holdings in the area to about 2000 acres by 1800.²

Within the next decade William Weston, an English engineer, surveyed Lynch's property and in 1796 drew a map indicating the village plan.³ Streets were arranged in a simple grid pattern, forming blocks measuring 400 by 600 feet, with the lengthwise axis running east to west.⁴ The blocks were subdivided into building lots, each measuring 66 feet wide and 200 feet deep. Access to the interior of the blocks was provided by various alley arrangements. Lynch called the future city Lynchville, and named the two central thoroughfares after himself and his son, James.

Lynch had chosen the site of his proposed settlement carefully and wisely. From earliest times this area of central New York State had been well-served by inland water routes. A portage route, known as the "Oneida Carrying Place," formed a strategic land connection between Wood Creek, which was the beginning of the water route to the Great Lakes, and the Mohawk River, which flowed into the Hudson River and eventually into the Atlantic. Fort Stanwix was one of several defensive structures built during the eighteenth century to protect this transportation route. This connection was greatly improved in 1797 when the Western Inland Lock Navigation Company opened a canal which linked the Mohawk with Wood Creek. A visitor to Rome in 1802 noted that "this water communication is of incalculable benefit to this part of the world. Produce may be sent both ways . . ."⁵

The ruins of Fort Stanwix stood on what was designated on Weston's map as the eastern part of block twelve. It was situated on what are now lots five through fourteen and possibly also on parts of lots four and fifteen. During the next century this block was to play a crucial role in the transformation of the village of Lynchville into the city of Rome.

Included among the property which Wheeler Barnes purchased in 1828 from the executors of Dominick Lynch were lots 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15.⁶ He paid \$150 for each lot. On August 7, 1835, Barnes and his wife sold lots 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and the north half of lot 15 to John Stryker for \$1000, at a profit of only \$125 (see HABS photocopy of 1874 map).

On the following day Stryker sold the north half of lots 10 and 11, on which he later built his house, to Joseph Stringham,⁸ and the south half of the same two lots to Henry A. Foster.⁹ In 1833 Stringham had purchased the Wheeler Barnes house on Dominick Street and owned it until 1838. Foster was the well-known lawyer and politician who in 1838 was serving as congressman and later purchased the Empire House property.

Apparently Foster had conveyed his half of the lots to Stringham¹⁰ by April 30, 1838, for on that day Stryker purchased of K. Stringham, of Buffalo, these two lots as well as lots 12 and 13.¹¹ At this time Stryker paid \$3000 for four parcels, considerably more than he had paid just three years earlier for five and one-half lots. On the same day Stryker mortgaged lots 10, 11, 12, and 13 to Joseph Stringham for \$1275,¹² and the mortgage was satisfied according to the agreed terms in 1840.¹³

According to local tradition and to one account by Daniel Wager,¹⁴ the historian of Rome, the Stryker house was built in 1835.¹⁵ Presumably this date was acquired from the land records which list Stryker as the owner of the land in 1835, but as explained above, he held the title to the property for only a day.

Several factors indicate that the building was begun in 1838 and completed in 1839. As noted above, Stryker had, for the second time, acquired title to the property in the spring of 1838. This land, at the northeast corner of Spring and Liberty Streets, reportedly required considerable work before it would be suitable as a site for a dwelling:

that part of the old fort was a distressed looking place. There was a mound and there were ditches and trenches, and the grounds were used to deposit dead dogs, hogs, cats, horses and all the rubbish of the town.¹⁶

Furthermore, the builder credited with erecting the house did not arrive in Rome until 1838. His obituary, written in 1894, noted the following:

For many years he was one of the leading contractors and builders in Rome, and a large number of buildings in this city stand as monuments to his industry. In 1839 he built the residence of the late John Stryker at the corner of Liberty and Spring streets. On this house he placed the first roof gutters ever built on a house in Rome. Before that time the water which ran from the roofs was caught in wooden troughs or tin conductors under the eaves.¹⁷

During 1839-40 Prince also erected a house for his family on Liberty Street west of the Stryker property, beyond the Cole-Kingsley house.¹⁸

Stryker was not married until 1839. A Rome newspaper noted that he had lived in the house all his married life, with the exception of the first few months when he and his wife occupied apartments in the old Bank of Rome building.¹⁹ Certainly, if the house had been completed at the time of their marriage, he and his bride would have moved into the new house rather than into rented quarters. The Strykers called their home "Liberty Hall." In 1842 the dwelling was valued on the city tax rolls at \$3800.²⁰

In 1829, Stryker had moved to Rome from Whitestown,²¹ where he had studied law in the office of Storrs and White. William Curtis Noyes, who had also studied in the same office, later practiced law in Rome with Henry A. Foster, and subsequently moved to New York where he established a widely-recognized legal reputation. Noyes may also have provided a link between Stryker and Foster, who practiced law together at various times.

In 1835 Stryker was elected to the state assembly with "the particular object and occasion of his going" reportedly being "to secure the passage of a charter for the Syracuse & Utica Railroad Company, and to see that its location should be via Rome."²² In 1837 he began ten years as surrogate of Oneida County.

Stryker had married Frances Elizabeth Hubbard of Utica in 1839. Her father, Thomas Hill Hubbard, had held many public offices, served as a congressman for six years, and as a presidential elector in 1812, 1844, and 1852.²³ In 1841 a son, the first of five children, was born to the Strykers. Within the next few years three daughters -- Grace, Pheobe, and Harriet -- were born, and in 1847 Thomas was born. Living with the family in 1850 were three female servants and a male laborer.²⁴

A view of Rome published in 1845 and a map of 1851 indicate that the house was then very similar to its present appearance.²⁵ The library (west) wing had been added by that time, as well as all of the rear (south) wing, except for the southernmost section, which has no windows, only grilles in the entablature. The wooden porches along the south side of the library wing and along the east side of the rear wing had also been constructed. In the basement of the library wing there is an early central heating apparatus, the door of which reads "Giles & Co's/ Hot Air/ Furnace/ Rome N Y 1851." That date may indicate that the wing shown on the 1851 map was quite new at the time. In the library and in the bedroom above there are hot air registers.

The 1851 map also indicated two outbuildings near the center of the south property line.²⁶ In 1857 reference was made to Stryker's "new barn."²⁷ These may be the same outbuildings shown in the old photograph of the property (see HABS photocopy of pre-1925 photo).

By about 1878 some changes had been made to the buildings.²⁸ The covered balcony and the porch with the ogee-type roof across the north (front) facade of the west wing had been added. The columns of the entrance porch were replaced with ironwork similar to that on the balcony and the north porch.

John Stryker was greatly involved in railroad enterprises throughout the country being

closely identified with a number of railroads in western states, including the Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana and others. He was very active in pushing these roads to completion, and held important positions in the corporations.²⁹

Wager noted in 1881 that he could "well remember the time when a pass or a line? from Hon. John Stryker would 'dead head' a person over as many railroads and steamboat lines as one now would from Jay Gould or William H. Vanderbilt."³⁰

Locally, he was one of the early promoters and a director of the Utica and Syracuse Railroad and served as its first attorney. Along with Henry Foster, Stryker was very influential in changing the course of the Erie Canal from the outskirts to the center of the city and in determining the route of the Black River Canal through Rome. Through these ventures Stryker became well acquainted with such well-known figures as Erastus Corning, Dean Richmond, and Samuel Tilden, whose campaign in 1876 against Rutherford B. Hayes resulted in a hotly disputed election.

In 1857 Stryker suffered heavy financial losses in his railroad investments, but he reportedly recovered from this misfortune. This situation probably accounted for the conveyance made in November, 1857, in which Stryker sold his home and other premises to Robert J. Hubbard, of New York City, for \$20,700.³¹ Hubbard -- who was presumably related to Frances Hubbard Stryker, John's wife -- conveyed the same premises four days later to Frances for the same amount.³² In April, 1857, Stryker had sold his neighbor Alfred W. Cole a strip of land off of the western side of Stryker's lot.³³ This strip increased the size of the parcel which Stryker had sold to Cole in 1846 by 24 feet.

While Stryker ran for public office only twice, he was very active and influential in Democratic political circles on the local, state and national levels. His house was the "headquarters of visiting Democratic statesmen."³⁴ He was well-acquainted with such men as James K. Polk, Gov. William R. Marcy, Gov. Horatio Seymour, Governor Bouck, Governor Manning of South Carolina, John L. Dawson, Edwin Croswell, Silas Wright, A. C. Flagg, and General Lewis Cass.³⁵ He served as a delegate to twelve state and four national conventions and for ten years was a

leading member of the Democratic State Committee.³⁶ An indication of his role in Democratic politics was suggested in this comment made in 1879:

The politics of Oneida County and the history of State and National conventions would be in great measure shorn of their most interesting features, if all that Hon. John Stryker had to do therewith was left out.³⁷

In addition to his extensive national and state interests, Stryker was intimately involved in various financial ventures in Rome. He was one of the founders of the Rome Locomotive Works, the Merchants Iron Mill, and the Rome Gas Light Company. He was also a director of the Rome Iron Works and of several banks and president of the old Bank of Rome. In addition, he helped to found the Deaf Mute Institute in Rome. An active member of the Zion Episcopal Church, Stryker served on the vestry for 45 years, and on the building committee for the addition to the parish rectory and the church edifice.³⁸

Stryker was paralyzed for the last seventeen years of his life. At his death in 1885 at the age of 77, the Rome Sentinel noted that the city had lost "one of its most widely known citizens and one who has been identified with its material prosperity for nearly sixty years."³⁹

In his will Stryker bequeathed the "homestead" to his wife Frances,⁴⁰ although she already held title to it through the 1857 conveyance. Frances died six years after her husband, on April 17, 1891. Her estate was divided among her children, and "Liberty Hall" was occupied by her children, Pheobe and Thomas, until their deaths. In 1915 Sue Bingay, the Stryker's cousin, and her grandchild, as well as two domestics and a chauffeur lived with the Strykers.⁴¹ Pheobe died in May, 1916, and Thomas, who also never married, died just three months later.

Judging from her bequests, Pheobe was very active in the Zion Episcopal Church. John followed in his father's business footsteps, and for the seventeen years of his father's paralysis directed his financial affairs.

Thomas Stryker attended the Rome Academy, the Walnut Hill School in Geneva, and Hobart College. In 1876 he was the city engineer of Rome. He was later engaged as a civil engineer for various railroad and canal projects. He was the engineer for the construction of the Rome and Clinton Railroad and was chief engineer of the Boston, Rome & Oswego Railroad. Under the Utica-born State engineer Horatio Seymour, Stryker was appointed assistant engineer in charge of the construction of the Champlain Canal and the Glens Falls Feeder.⁴² During the following year, 1880, he served as engineer in charge of dredging and maintaining the channel of the Hudson River.

In 1880, at age 32, Stryker returned to Rome, in order to accept the position of secretary and treasurer of the New York Locomotive Works,

and later served as its president. Until 1900 he was president of the Rome Locomotive Machine Works. He was also a director of the Rome Iron Works, the Rome Merchants Iron Mill, Rome Metal Company, Rome Wire Company, Rome Manufacturing Company, Rome Gas & Electric Company, the Williams Knitting Company (which occupied the premises of the former Mudge and Ames Knitting Works), the Bingham Harness Company, and the Rome Radiator Company.⁴³ He also served as a trustee of the Rome Cemetery Association and the Central New York Institution for Deaf-Mutes.

Like his father, Thomas Stryker served for many years on the vestry of the Zion Episcopal Church. As a member of the Rome Club, he must have witnessed its transformation from the home of his father's friend, George Barnard, and his widow. Thomas Stryker was also interested in history and was particularly concerned with Fort Stanwix. He commissioned a plan of the fort to be drawn⁴⁴ and was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Thomas Stryker, a bachelor, bequeathed "Liberty Hall" to his cousin, Melancthon Woolsey Stryker. Woolsey's mother had died in 1859, when he was only eight years old, and the children of the family were later sent to live with relatives. In 1863 Woolsey had arrived in Rome to live with his uncle's family. Both Woolsey and Thomas Stryker attended the Rome Academy.

Woolsey graduated from Hamilton College in 1872. During 1876 he was graduated from Auburn Theological Seminary, ordained into the Presbyterian ministry, and married to Clara E. Goss, of Auburn. Stryker ministered to congregations in Ithaca, in Holyoke, Mass., and in Chicago, before being selected as president of Hamilton College, a post he held for twenty-five years.⁴⁵ In 1917 he retired to "Liberty Hall." His daughter, Evelyn, recalled the following features about the house:

the front parlor was furnished with lovely Victorian rosewood pieces, oriental rugs, oil paintings of ancestors, a beautiful rosewood piano and a huge mirror which reached from the ceiling nearly to the floor. There were two verandas, one at the front and one at the back, which looked out on the spacious lawn, where many a game of croquet was played in the old days. At the side was a glass-enclosed porch where meals could sometimes be eaten. This looked out on a garden and beyond to the . . . Black River Canal.⁴⁶

The two dormers on the north (front) of the house were evidently added by Woolsey Stryker, as they are shown in a photograph of 1925.⁴⁷ Stryker was well-known as a poet and as a "hymnologist," and in his will provided \$20,000 for a room in a new building of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Chicago, devoted "to instruction in Christian Hymnology."⁴⁸ His widow retained the house for four years, and sold it in 1933⁴⁹ to Dorothy C. Harrington, whose relatives occupy the house at the present time.

FOOTNOTES

¹Samuel W. Durant, History of Oneida County, New York (Philadelphia: Evert & Fariss, 1878), p. 375.

²Ibid.

³William Weston, "Map of Lynchville," 1796.

⁴The existing block and lot numbers have been changed from the original numbers. The block on which Fort Stanwix stood was originally block twelve, but is now block seven. The present parcel numbers do not correspond to the original lot numbers. In tracing the history of the block over a period of about 175 years, it was necessary to refer to these original lot numbers, which are shown on the 1874 map.

⁵"Journal of Rev. John Taylor's Missionary Tour through the Mohawk & Black River Countries in 1802," The Documentary History of the State of New-York (Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1850), III, p. 1138.

⁶Oneida County Deeds, Book 48, p. 110.

⁷Ibid., Book 70, p. 259.

⁸Ibid., p. 263.

⁹Ibid., p. 265.

¹⁰Record of this conveyance is apparently not indexed in the Oneida County land records.

¹¹Oneida County Deeds, Book 85, p. 333.

¹²Oneida County Mortgages, Book 37, p. 107.

¹³Ibid., Book 41, p. 304.

¹⁴Daniel E. Wager, Our City and Its People, a Descriptive Work on the City of Rome New York (Boston: The Boston History Company, 1896), p. 115.

¹⁵Mrs. Harrington Grill, a recent occupant of the house, has, however, written that her mother "always said the house was built prior to the credited date 1835." Copy of Martin M. Post's MSS biography of Melancthon Woolsey Stryker, Hamilton College Library, p. 8, annotated by Mrs. Grill.

¹⁶Wager, p. 115. Wager prefaces this statement with the date of "prior to 1835," but this date was probably based on a later reference in the paragraph to the building date of 1835.

¹⁷"Death of D. B. Prince," Rome Daily Sentinel, June 14, 1894. This reference was provided by Mr. Parker Scripture, of Oriskany, N. Y.

- ¹⁸Ibid.
- ¹⁹"Death of Hon. John Stryker," Rome Daily Sentinel, May 1, 1885.
- ²⁰Rome Assessment Rolls, 1842.
- ²¹Wager, pt. 2, p. 12.
- ²²Rome Daily Sentinel, May 1, 1885.
- ²³Wager, pt. 2, p. 13.
- ²⁴Seventh Census (1850), New York, Vol. 61, Oneida County, pp. 35-36.
- ²⁵Henry Hart, Surveyor, Map of Rome Oneida County New York . . . 1851.
- ²⁶Ibid.
- ²⁷Rome Directory, 1857.
- ²⁸Bird's-eye View of Rome, N. Y. (Troy: L. R. Burleigh, n.d.).
- ²⁹Rome Daily Sentinel, May 1, 1885.
- ³⁰Ibid.
- ³¹Oneida County Deeds, Book 218, p. 228.
- ³²Ibid., p. 227.
- ³³Ibid., Book 203, p. 2.
- ³⁴Rome Daily Sentinel, May 1, 1885.
- ³⁵Ibid. Also, D. E. Wager, Men, Events, Lawyers, Politics and Politicians of Early Rome (Utica: Oneida Historical Society, 1879), p. 47.
- ³⁶Ibid.
- ³⁷Ibid.
- ³⁸John A. Scott, A Century and A Quarter of Zion Episcopal Church (Rome: Zion Episcopal Church, 1950), pp. 15, 25.
- ³⁹Rome Daily Sentinel, May 1, 1885.
- ⁴⁰Oneida County Deeds, Book 441, p. 400.
- ⁴¹New York State Census, 1915, Book 363, p. 16.
- ⁴²"Thomas H. Stryker Has Passed Away," Rome Sentinel, August 25, 1916.
- ⁴³Ibid.

⁴⁴Henry J. Cookinham, History of Oneida County New York From 1700 to the Present Time (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1912), I, p. 505.

⁴⁵"Dr. M. Woolsey Stryker, Former Hamilton College President, Expires, at 78," Rome Daily Sentinel, December 6, 1929.

⁴⁶Post, pp. 24-25.

⁴⁷Nelson Greene, History of the Mohawk Valley 1614-1925 (Chicago: The S. J. Clark Publishing Co., 1925), II, 1883.

⁴⁸Oneida County Deeds, Book 926, p. 371.

⁴⁹Ibid., Book 939, p. 15.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: Main block of house is two and one-half stories; other wings are two stories.
2. Number of bays: North (front) and east facades of main block of house are three bays wide; north facade of library wing is two bays wide.
3. Over-all dimensions: The north facade measures approximately 56 feet; the east facade including all rear extensions measures approximately 103 feet.
4. Layout, shape: To the rectangular main block of house were added the west and south (rear) wings, resulting in a roughly L-shaped plan.
5. Foundations: Foundations of main block of house, west wing, and north part of rear wing are of cut stone. Porch of west wing and south part of rear wing have brick foundations.
6. Wall construction, finish, and color: Brick walls laid up in American bond, painted a cream color; central block of house has stone water table.
7. Porches: Entrance porch in west bay of central block of house has columns of iron work. Porch across north side of west wing has similar iron work supports. There is a wooden porch across south side of west wing. South of main block of house is an enclosed porch.
8. Chimneys: In central block of house there are three inside end chimneys: two along the east facade and one on the west facade. There is a projecting end chimney

on the west facade of the west wing; there is another chimney on a south wall of the rear wing between the north and south portions of this wing.

9. Openings:

- a. Doorway: Entrance doorway has leaded transom and sidelights of blue, red and clear glass. There are two pilasters beside the wooden door, which has two vertical panels.
- b. Windows: Windows are six-over-six light double hung sash, except for casement windows in the second story of the north facade of the library wing. First story library windows extend to floor.

10. Roof:

- a. Shape: Gabled roofs, except for flat roof over part of south wing.
- b. Cornice: Wooden cornices and friezes are painted grey and at several points have iron grilles in frieze.
- c. Dormers: Two gabled dormers on front (north) facade have arched windows with tracery-like sections.
- d. Cupola: Originally there was a cupola over the central block of the house; evidently this was removed when the dormers were added early in the twentieth century.

B. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: First floor: Central portion of house has side hall plan, with double parlors opening off the east side of hall. To west of hall is a library wing. Behind the center hall is a back hall which opens to the south porch of the library wing and to rear wing. Between the south wall of the central block and the north wall of the rear wing is a stairway leading to the basement. The northernmost portion of this rear wing contains a large room to the south of which are several smaller rooms. It was not possible to gain access to the extreme south section of this wing.

Second floor: Stairway hall is similar in plan to first floor. There are three large rooms opening off of this hall. The southeast room has an adjoining kitchen, which is a long narrow room running east to west that adjoins the room on the south. Another large room is at the northeast corner. Adjoining the northwest bedroom on the south is a closet which has been converted to a kitchen. At the south end of the hall is a large bathroom.

Third floor: At the south end of the stairhall is a bathroom. Two rooms open off the east wall of the hall. The north portion of this floor has been converted into an apartment. Entrance is through a door on the west hall wall, which opens into a large room. Adjoining this room to the east is a small kitchen; east of the kitchen is a bedroom in the northeast corner of the house.

2. Stairway: Open, curved stairway along west side of entrance hall.
3. Flooring: Several first floor rooms have inlaid hardwood floors. Other floors have wide wooden floor boards, some of which have been painted.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered walls and ceilings throughout, painted or papered. The first floor entrance hall has a heavy wooden Greek Revival cornice, and a circular plaster ceiling design from which a light hangs. The library and front parlor ceilings have been covered with acoustical tile.
5. Doorways and doors: Doorways have two vertical panels. First floor hall doors have shouldered architrave trim with a cornice, and paneled reveals. Double doors separate double parlors. Doors on second floor have shouldered architrave trim.
6. Notable hardware: Much of what appears to be the original door hardware remains. Entrance door has a large box lock, still in use.
7. Lighting: Electrical.
8. Heating: Steam heat. First floor parlors have black marble mantels; library has mantelpiece of salmon-colored marble. There is a large, ornate, gas chandelier in the south parlor, which has been converted to electricity. Second floor fireplaces have wooden mantelpieces.

C. Site and Surroundings:

1. Orientation and general setting: The north (front) facade faces onto Liberty Street.
2. Outbuildings: In the southwest corner of the lot is a playhouse, which originally was located on the Kingsley property, to the west. Its walls are covered with horizontal and vertical siding, and it has a high mansard roof with dormers which houses a full second story. Each facade is only one bay wide; the entrance-way is on the east facade. North of the playhouse and west of the rear wing is a wooden summer house, partially enclosed with lattice

"LIBERTY HALL" (JOHN STRYKER HOUSE)
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work. At the south of the lot facing on Willett Street, is a stone garage with a red tile roof.

3. Landscaping: The grounds are well landscaped, with many large trees on the property. Smaller trees and bushes form an arbor over a path leading from Spring Street to the east enclosed porch. South of this is an old cast iron settee and grape arbors; there are more grape arbors and iron clothes poles at the southeast corner of the property, east of the playhouse.

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ILLUSTRATIONS

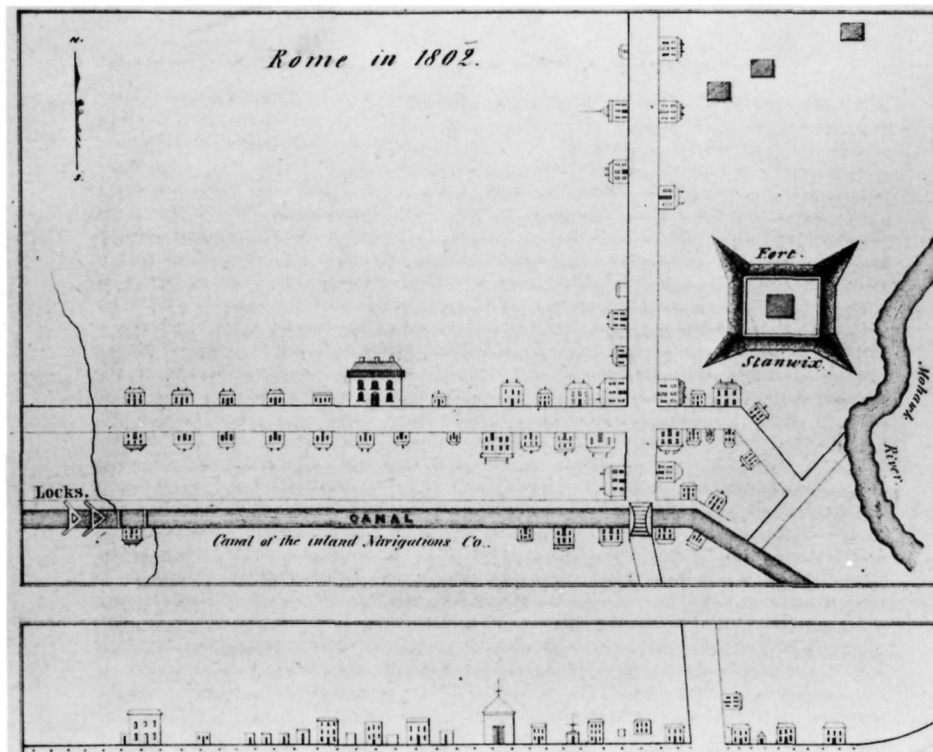


FIG. 1. Photocopy of plate opposite page 1137 in "Journal of Rev. John Taylor's Missionary Tour through the Mohawk and Black Rivers Countries in 1802," The Documentary History of the State of New-York (Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1850), III.

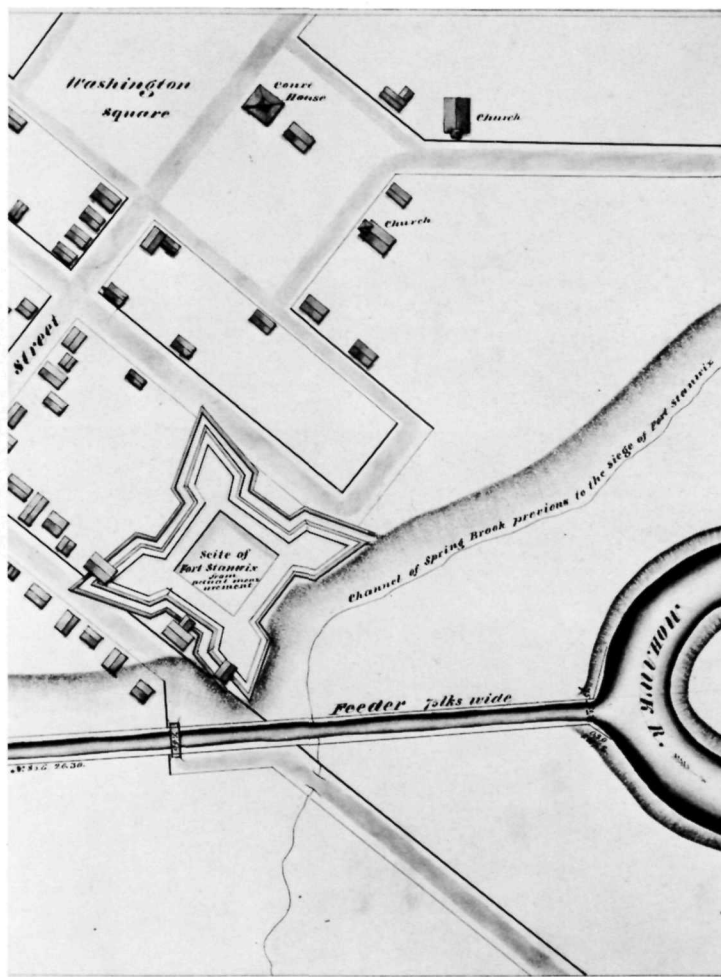


FIG. 2. Photocopy of a detail of plate 53 in Erie Canal From a Survey by Holmes Hutchinson (1834), Vol. 7.

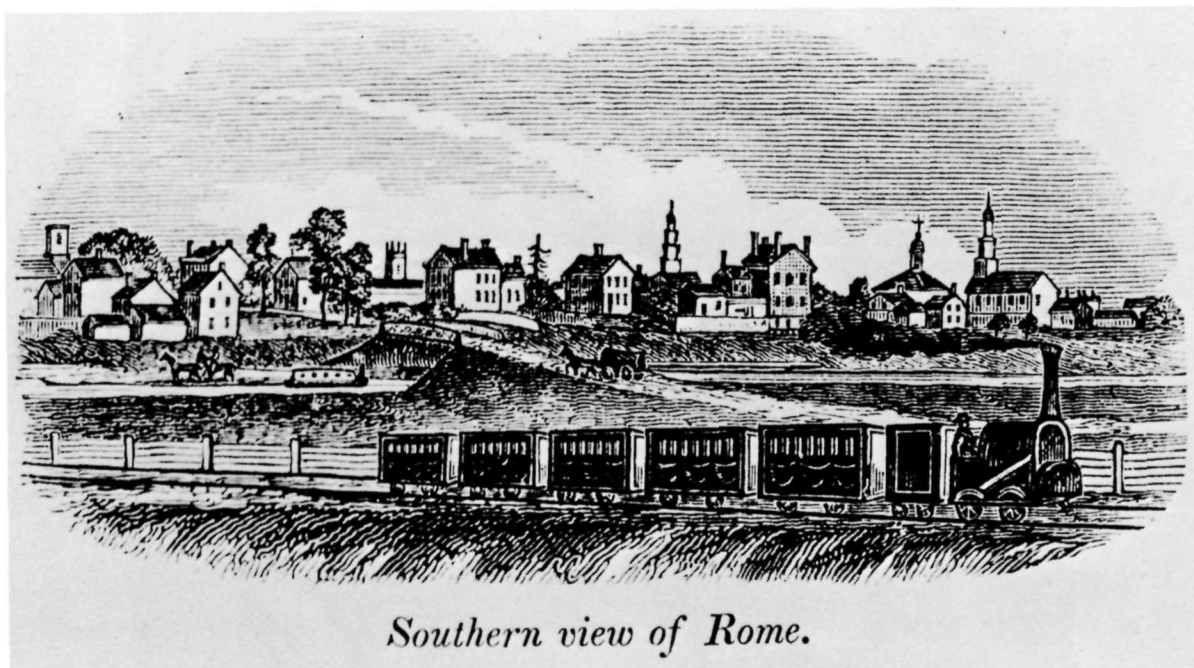


FIG. 3. Photocopy of print on page 367 in Barber, John W., and Howe, Henry, Historical Collections of the State of New York (New York: By the authors, 1845).

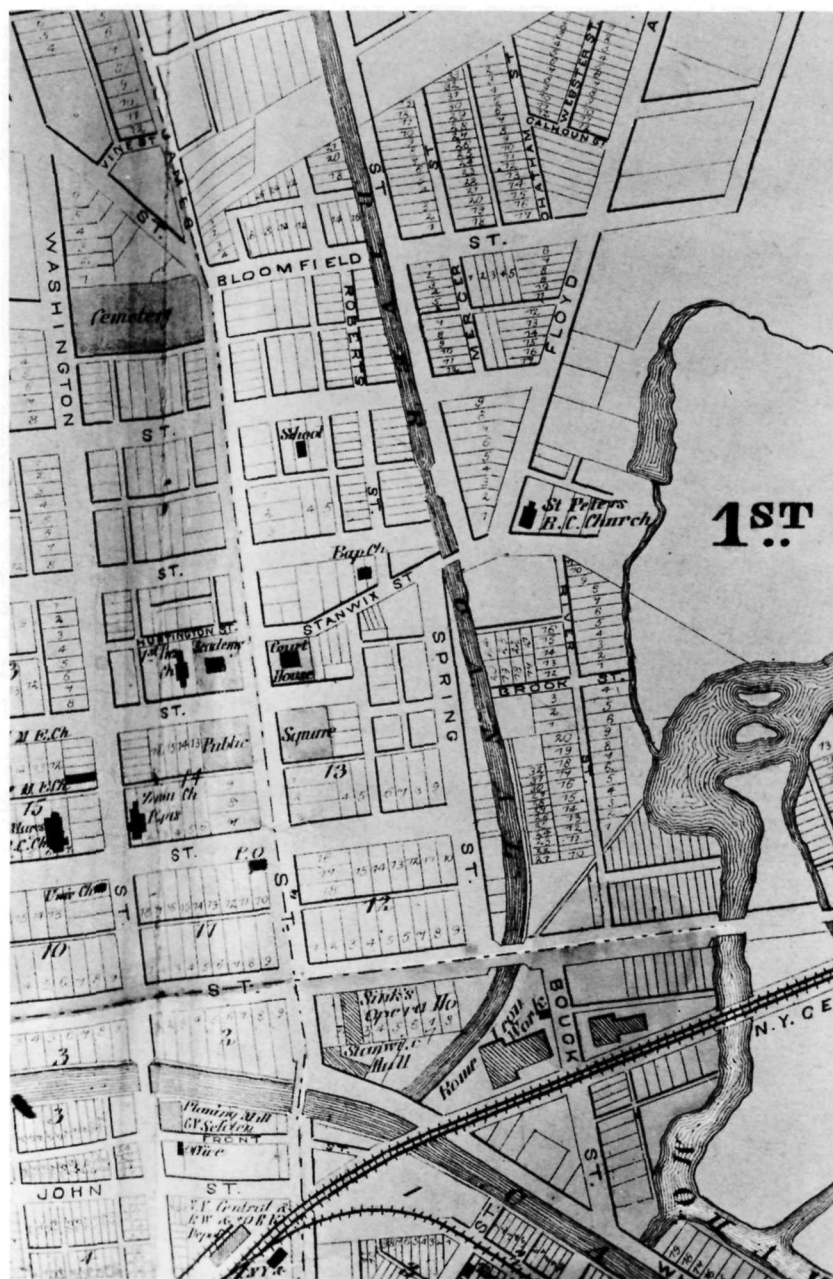


FIG. 4. Photocopy of a detail of plate 81 in Atlas of Oneida County, New York, From Actual Surveys and Official Records (Philadelphia: P. G. Beers and Co., 1874).

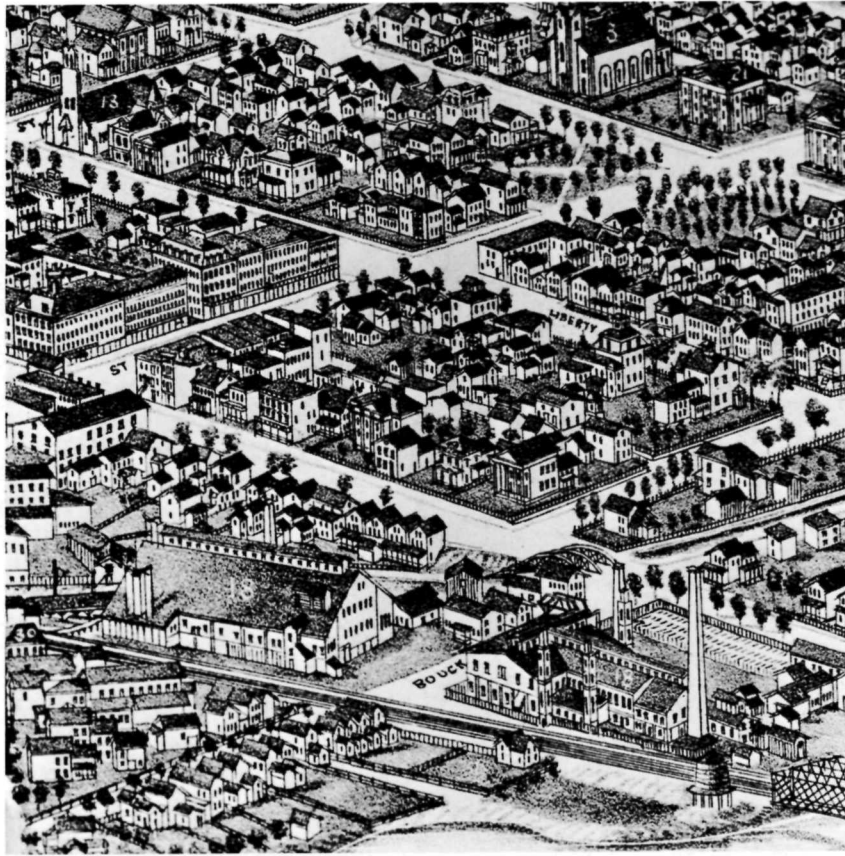


FIG. 5. Photocopy of a detail of Bird's-Eye View of Rome, N.Y. (Troy: L. R. Burleigh, n.d., probably c. 1878). Courtesy of the Rome Historical Society.

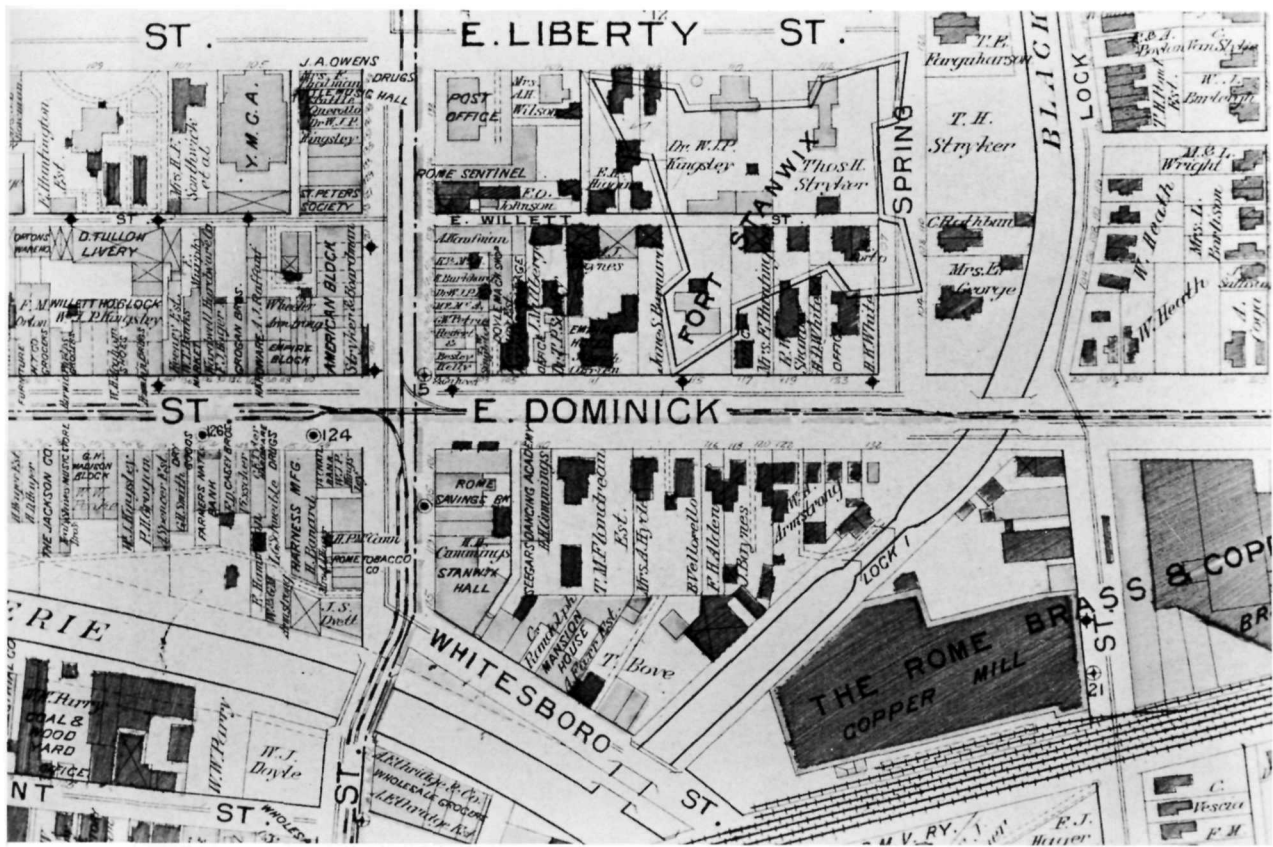


FIG. 6. Photocopy of plate 66 in New Century Atlas, Oneida County, New York (Philadelphia: New Century Map Company, 1907).



FIG. 7. Empire House. Photocopy of page xxix in The Rome Directory, 1903.



FIG. 8. Barnes-Mudge House (Rome Club). Photocopy of c. 1905 photograph from the Collection of Mr. Chester Williams, Rome, New York.



FIG. 9. Barnes-Mudge House (Rome Club). Photocopy of c. 1930 photograph from the Collection of Mr. Chester Williams, Rome, New York.



FIG. 10. "Liberty Hall" (John Stryker House).
Photocopy of pre-1925 photograph from the
Collection of Mr. Lyle J. Howland, Rome, New York.



BARNES-MUDGE HOUSE (Rome Club)

South (Front) Facade
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



BARNES-MUDGE HOUSE (Rome Club)

South Facade, Detail of Cornice and Portico,
Column, Capital, and Entablature
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



COLE-KINGSLEY HOUSE
(Women's Community Center)

North (Front) Facade
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



COLE-KINGSLEY HOUSE
(Women's Community Center)

Detail, Roof and Dormers
on North (Front) Elevation
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



COLE-KINGSLEY HOUSE
(Women's Community Center)

Side (West) and Rear (South) Elevations
from the Southwest
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



COLE-KINGSLEY HOUSE
(Women's Community Center)

Detail of South Wall
in the Northeast Parlor, First Floor
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



COLE-KINGLSEY HOUSE
(Women's Community Center)

Stairway to Attic (View to the South),
Second Floor
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



VIRGIL DRAPER HOUSE

View of South (Front) Facade
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



EMPIRE HOUSE

South (Front) and East Sides
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



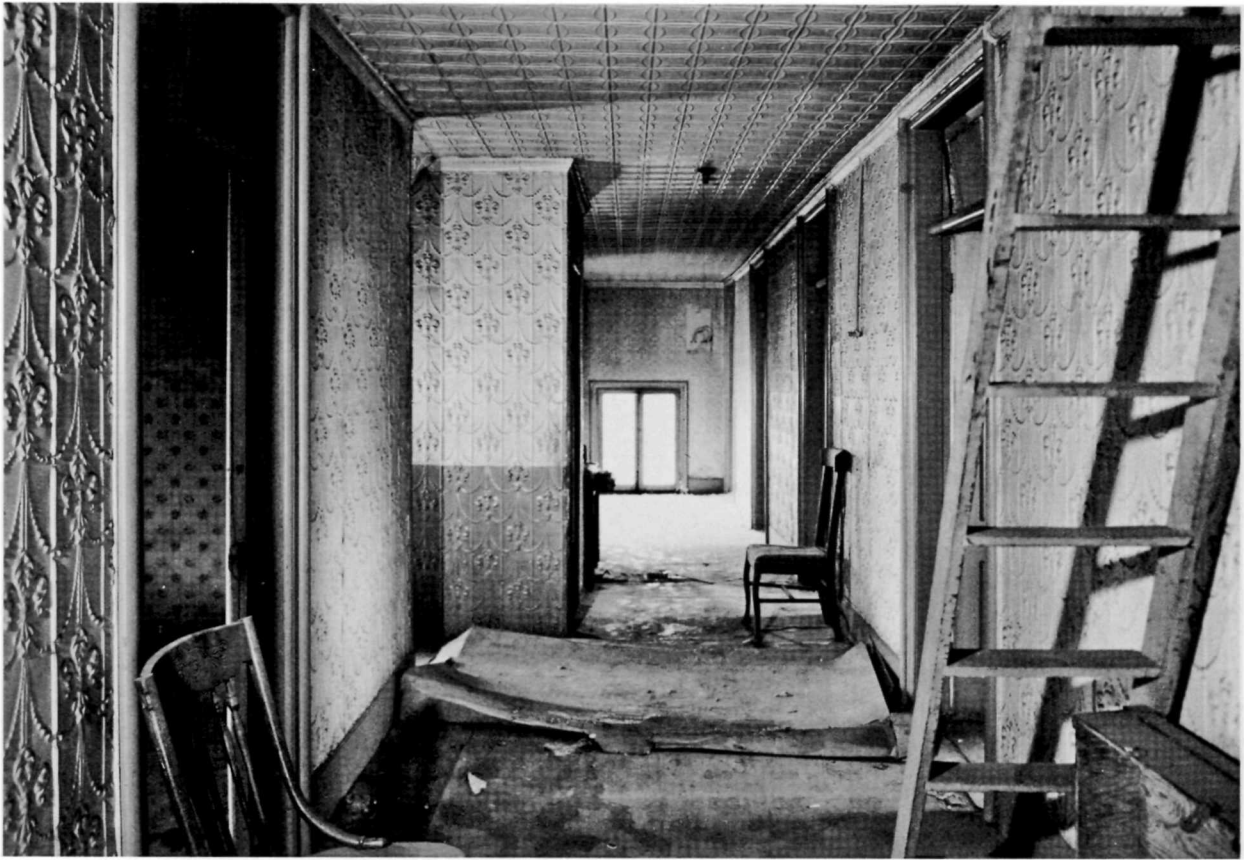
EMPIRE HOUSE

Cornice and Third Floor Detail
of South (Front) Side
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



EMPIRE HOUSE

First Floor, Main Stairhall (Looking North)
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



EMPIRE HOUSE

Third Floor, Hallway
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



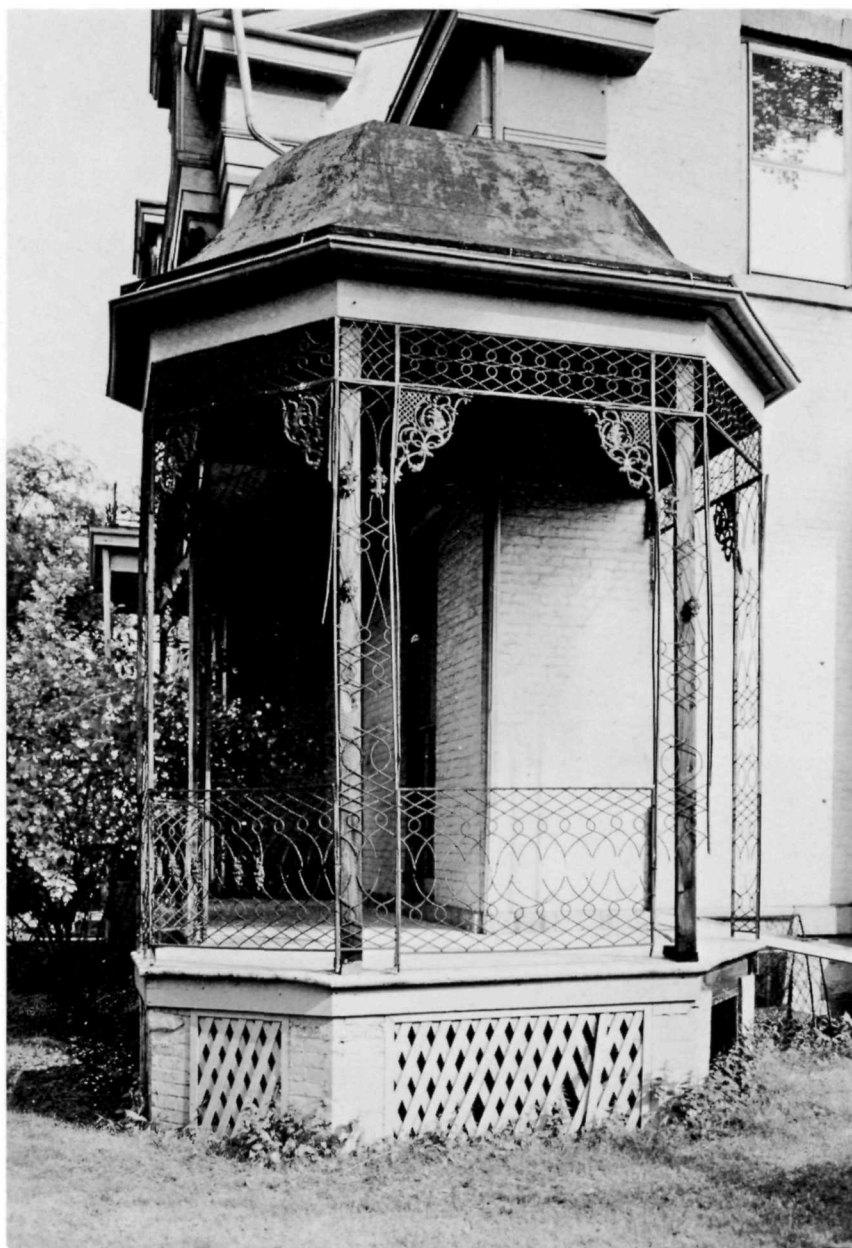
"LIBERTY HALL"
(John Stryker House)

North (Front) Facade
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



"LIBERTY HALL"
(John Stryker House)

Detail of Main Entry (North Side)
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



"LIBERTY HALL"
(John Stryker House)

Detail of Porch at Northwest Corner
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



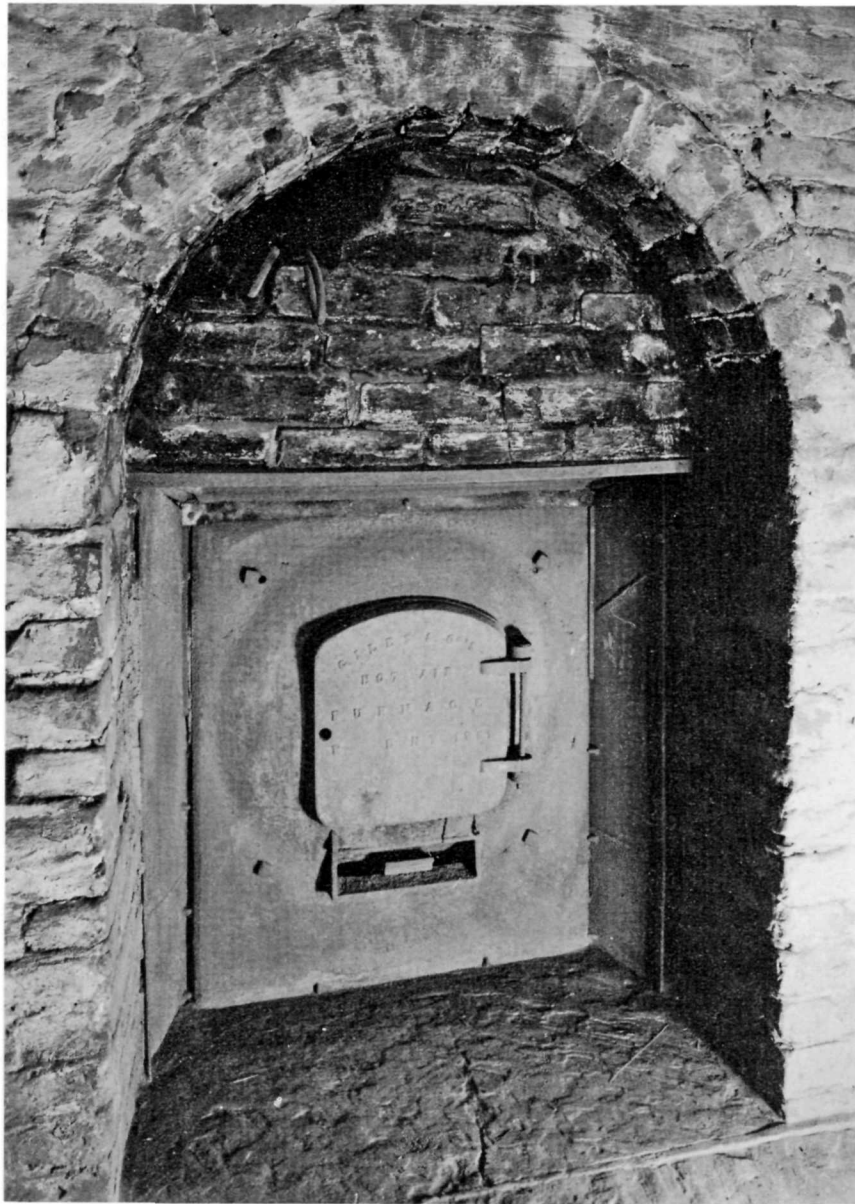
"LIBERTY HALL"
(John Stryker House)

West Side from the South
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



"LIBERTY HALL"
(John Stryker House)

First Floor, Detail of Window and Door
of Northeast Room
Jack E. Boucher, 1970



"LIBERTY HALL"
(John Stryker House)

Detail of Door to Original Heating System
Jack E. Boucher, 1970

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